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LD071323 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, speaking at the end of his 48-hour working visit, asserted that the next round of Geneva talks "will be conclusive" with regard to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan within 12 months, Moscow television reported. According to TASS, Shevardnadze linked this withdrawal to cessation of U.S. aid to the Afghan rebels saying that it will be "with the coming into force of this obligation" that the Soviet withdrawal will begin.

Israel

Palestinian Issue—In reaction to U.S. support for a UN Security Council resolution against Israeli deportations of Palestinians, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir termed the U.S. vote a "one-time event" that should not be considered "negative inclination" toward Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. A short Foreign Ministry statement carried by IDF Radio expressed "sorrow and disappointment" that Israel's "friend" approved the UNSC resolution and declared that Israel "will continue to take action from a position of responsibility, restraint, and self-control." In remarks from Algiers cited by KUNA, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, urged that the Palestinians be given "international protection," and he added that Britain and Europe have a special "moral responsibility" to take action against the killing of Palestinian protesters. During a tour of Gaza, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated his view that even a partial unilateral withdrawal from the territories would be interpreted as a "sign of weakness" which would trigger even more violence, Jerusalem radio noted 7 January.

Soviet Diplomat Arrives—In meetings at the Foreign Ministry, a Soviet official who arrived to head his country's consular delegation said that the USSR is studying Israel's request to establish consular representation in Moscow, Jerusalem radio reported.

Islamic Affairs

At the end of its emergency session in Ifrane, Morocco, the ICO Jerusalem Committee condemned "inhuman Zionist policies and practices" against the Palestinians in Israel's occupied territories and adopted a series of resolutions regarding diplomatic and relief measures, MAP reported. The committee also declared Friday, 15 January, "Day of Islamic Solidarity."

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak dismissed reports of an agreement to send 10,000 Egyptian soldiers to the Gulf in return for 5 billion dollars to offset military debts as "pure nonsense," MENA reported, citing a statement to AL-ANBA'. At the same time, the president reaffirmed that Egypt will support the Gulf countries "with all its resources." Elsewhere, the president denied reports that he had received an invitation to visit Moscow, saying that "absolutely nothing of the sort has happened."

Iran

In a letter to President 'Ali Khamene'i carried by Tehran radio 7 January, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni stressed that the government has the power to "unilaterally revoke any lawful agreements" that are "in contravention of the interests of Islam and the country." Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented that in the light of Imam Khomeyni's recent clarifications, "there should no longer be any differences" among true "advocates" of the imam's line, IRNA reported.

Libya

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Armed Forces, received Lieutenant General Yevgeniy Kondakov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry's Foreign Military Assistance Main Directorate, and an accompanying delegation, Tripoli television reported.

Kuwait

Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah received Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio said.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on Jerusalem Committee Proceedings

'Arafat Addresses Committee

LD061937 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1848 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, at the opening of the Jerusalem Committee meeting on 5 January at the Royal Palace in Ifrane, Morocco—live]

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II; His Excellency the Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization; Brothers:

In the name of our Palestinian people and in the name of our mujahidin and men of resistance, I would like to express to Your Majesty profound thanks. Whenever matters get (?complicated) and whenever (?darkness) becomes [words indistinct] the Palestinian mujahidin. The (?aim) of the emergency meeting of the Jerusalem Committee which you, Your Majesty, has called is within this fraternal and true stance toward your brothers, the Palestinian mujahidin, who are now facing the most serious imperialist-Israeli-racist [word indistinct] onslaught against our children, women, and people.

This onslaught is also against our sanctuaries—especially our places of worship, including holy Jerusalem, the first of the two shrines and the third of the holy mosques, which these Israelis have continuously tried to demolish once by burning it, on another occasion by trying to blow it up, on a third occasion by praying inside of it, within a continuous plan to turn this holy mosque, the first of the two shrines and the third of the holy mosques, into what they call the Temple of Solomon.

Not only this, but there is also the aggression on our land, schools, universities, and hospitals, and the confiscation of the land and the running of mass detention camps. As an example of what I am talking about, I quote here from a UN Committee: From the total number of Palestinians who are still in the occupied land under Israeli occupation—(?2 million)—360,000 men, women, and young people were interrogated; that is the highest percentage of people ever interrogated. What is now happening inside our occupied land is an uprising of a people, wave after wave, to confront this Israeli occupation.

I would like to tell you, Your Majesty, and I would like to address this to my brother, the secretary general of the ICO, and to my brothers the leaders of the Islamic delegation, that these revolutionary waves of the successive uprisings of our people will continue, with God's assistance, despite what sacrifices our people may have to make and the martyrs they may have to give. This is Palestine—the land of martyrdom and martyrs; its people are linked to each other until Judgment Day. I would like to say these waves will continue, God willing, until the Israeli occupation ends and this usurpation of the first of two shrines and the third of the holy mosques—holy Jerusalem—is removed, with God's assistance.

We know that matters are not as easy as we may imagine. However, what happened recently, this last glorious wave, began on 24 October 1986 at the request of the PLO as a gesture of support for our people and kith and kin besieged in the camps in Lebanon. Our people were facing a dual aggression—an Israeli aggression by way of aircraft, artillery, and the navy in southern Lebanon, and at the same time and in other camps, especially in Beirut, attacks by some brothers, I regret to say. From then until now these waves of uprising have not ceased for one moment; in fact they became more violent and more ferocious thanks to the strong will, great faith, and clear resolve to continue until the occupation and the usurpation are removed.

I would like to remind my brothers of these issues by recalling what occurred several months ago at the (Dihayshah) camp when the zealots in the Zionists gangs—such as (?Leitner), Kahane, and Sharon—attacked Hebron and the (Dihayshah) camp and by recalling the violent clashes which took place at this camp, Hebron, and the Ibrahimi Mosque. This resistance was kindled when the U.S. secretary of state came to our occupied land and was met by our people with strong demonstrations, particularly as the U.S. Congress at that time issued a decision to close down the PLO's Washington office.

According to a decision by the Palestinian leadership, 82 of the leaders whom Shultz had invited to meet with him categorically refused to do so. In fact, they submitted to him a memorandum, similar to those which they usually submit to all foreign visitors—foreign ministers or other delegations—who come to our occupied land, in which they concentrate on the Palestinian people's right to this land and to a free, independent state in accordance with the resolutions of the Fes summit, Your Majesty.

You, Your Majesty, a short while ago said the Fes summit had put matters in their true perspective and dotted the i's and crossed the t's, as had the Rabat summit which stated that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This was recently reaffirmed by the Amman Arab summit and the Kuwaiti Islamic summit; the same was previously reaffirmed by the Casablanca Islamic summit and the Ta'if Islamic summit.

I say this, Your Majesty, to make an important point: These waves of continuous uprisings are the reply to the iron-fist policy being pursued by Israel and an answer to the continuation of the Israeli occupation of this holy land. Hence, the decision taken by the Israeli Cabinet on 28 November to continue its iron-fist policy against our people and our kith and kin. The Israeli authority began,

with its army and its armed settlers, to commit their crimes on 7 December 1987 at the entrance of Gaza where they killed four people and injured nine.

The following day they attacked the Dar al-Shifa' Hospital to take away the injured by force to Sarafand Prison, while claiming that the wounded were injured in a traffic accident; but the authorities took them because the injured had bullet scars on their bodies and the authorities wanted to conceal the crime. After that, incidents erupted and escalated all over our occupied land—Rafah, Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunus, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, B'ir Zayt, Ramallah, Al-Birah, Nabulus, Jericho, Jenin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, and all the camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On 21 December, the day which was declared by the Arab League Council as a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, our people in our occupied land who had remained behind in 1948, whom Israel thought that it had broken, and who had become Israeli citizens, staged strong demonstrations in solidarity with our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, standing in the same trenches with them. That was the heaviest blow directed against the logic of the Israeli occupation. Israel used to tell its masters in the United States and Europe that the Arabs of 1948—it used to call them Palestinians, a term coined by Begin—that is to say the Palestinians living in the country, were assimilated and were in the pocket of the Israeli Army, the Israeli authority, and the Israeli war machine.

Your Majesty, they said the same thing and magnified it through the news agencies; that what was happening is foreign resistance by the PLO, whether in southern Lebanon, or in one instance from Jordan, or from the Egyptian border, or in the Golan Heights, or military operations carried out by some military mujahidin of the Palestinian revolution. The answer came over a period of 14 months. Its recent and violent eruption was to say: No, 2 million Palestinians in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and those who unwillingly carry Israeli nationality are saying no to the Israeli occupation and to the Israeli iron fist.

Your Majesty, the number of injured has now reached about 600. Our figures do not include those injured today or yesterday. The number of martyrs is 66. Today, three martyrs fell—one woman and two youths. This was the figure when I arrived at this hall. This is in addition to about 15 injured in Gaza, 7 injured in Khan Yunus, the scores of injured at B'ir Zayt University, and the scores of injured in the rest of the towns, including Hebron, Nabulus, Jenin, Tulkarm, Qaliqilyah, Ramallah, and Jericho.

I say all of this, brothers—I am sorry Your Majesty for speaking too long, but I wanted to acquaint His Majesty the King and my brothers of the facts about these incidents and add that there are also 6,700 people being detained; this figure relates to those who were in detention until 5 days ago; the detainees are in four camps in the West Bank and Gaza and in two camps inside our land which has been occupied since 1948—in 'Atlit and Sarafand. The Israelis say that the number of detainees is only 3,000. Even 3,000 is a large number. But our information is based on names—I have the names and I have the names of those injured and I have the names of the martyrs—and proves what I say.

Your Majesty, here you have now taken the initiative and I in the name of our people thank you and thank my brother the secretary general for everything he has done and is doing on this occasion. I thank all of my brothers—Arab or Islamic states—for this true stand with our people ever since the latter rose so that they would not feel that they stood alone but with our Arab nation and our Islamic nation. Thank you, Your Majesty, for this true stand. We now need some practical measures. At the United Nations we have been able, through Arab and Islamic efforts and the efforts of the Nonaligned States, to win. This is also thanks to some of our other friends, including the Europeans, and to the fact that the United States abstained for the first time—even this we take into account despite the fact that the weapons with which we are being killed are U.S. weapons.

However, we consider that the abstention and the nonuse of the veto by the United States, which is Israel's main ally and supporter—for were it not for this unlimited support Israel would not have survived—is by itself a step forward. Even the recent press statement in which the United States, together with others, objected to the expulsion of our strugglers from our occupied land—as there is a decision by the Israeli Cabinet for the expulsion of people whom they say are PLO supporters. [sentence as heard]. In other words, they want to expel 2 million Palestinians, because 2 million Palestinians say that the PLO inside the occupied land is our sole legitimate representative.

This was exactly the case with regard to the Algerian revolution, by which your father, Your Majesty, stood—the Algerian people came out to say that the Algerian revolution meant the Algerian people and vice versa, and we see today that our people are saying the same thing. In addition, all Palestinians in all parts of the world are saying that—that the PLO is the representative of our people.

They now want to expel the PLO representatives; this means the expulsion of the Palestinian people. The PLO statutes say that every Palestinian is a member of the PLO. This means that they want to say they are expelling the PLO. All those who are now raising PLO slogans and its flags are to be expelled. This is Sharon's plan. Sharon said in his plan: We should expel the Palestinians from the land of Israel as their homeland is the East Bank of the Jordan. This is what he said today, too. He said: We

do not object to the establishment of the state of Palestine, but it should be in Transjordan. He said more than that. He said, but first we have to liquidate Yasir 'Arafat. He said these words today, Your Majesty.

Therefore, we want measures for the implementation of UN Resolution 605, as the resolution says that this occupying force [phrase incomplete as heard], that there are Palestinian lands under occupation, that there is a Palestinian people who have rights, and that there are Palestinian and Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem, under occupation by a force which is the Israeli force. It adds that it is inevitable that a just solution should be found for the problem in the Middle East. The UN secretary general, according to the resolution, was asked to follow up the development of events. Our brothers in Jordan took the initiative with the Arab group in cooperation with us and called the Security Council once again to study this serious issue concerning the expulsion.

We have contacted the Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, and Jordanian brothers to ask them to cooperate in not accepting any expelled Palestinians—even those who are left on the border should stay at the border. Even Cyprus—yesterday or the day before we contacted the Cypriot leaders and they officially declared that they would not accept any expelled Palestinians. The day before yesterday the Israelis said they would take the expelled Palestinians on board aircraft and leave them in France. We contacted the French authorities to urge them not to accept any Palestinians because if someone wants to help a Palestinian, he should make sure he stays on his land. To help a Palestinian who happens to be outside his land, then help him return to his land.

We now want international protection and quickly to protect our people from the massacre and from the iron-fist policy pursued by the Israeli military and political leaders. Rabin, when he was in the United States at the time of the beginning of the uprising, said: This is an uprising from outside and I will go back to put it down. Now in Gaza there are two military divisions plus—according to their own admission—and in the West Bank there are two military divisions plus—that is to say, there are 4 and 1/2 military divisions in the West Bank and Gaza; this is beside the police and the border guard. They also use helicopters.

For the first time last week they deployed tanks and aircraft. They use other things which are internationally banned, including mustard gas. They use tear gas bombs and mustard gas bombs—which is an internationally-banned gas. We therefore want international protection until the occupation is ended.

We want an international conference, because when we talk about this issue and when the UN talks about this issue we want a just solution—what is the just solution? It is what Muslims agreed upon at their conferences; it is what the Arabs agreed upon at their conferences; it is what the nonaligned states agreed upon at their conferences; it is what the Africans agreed upon at their conferences; it is what the European states agreed upon—including the member-states of the European Common Market, which said that there should be an international conference on the basis of the Venice Declaration which would note the Palestinians' right to self-determination and be held with the PLO's participation.

It is what all the socialist states were unanimous on—from China to the Soviet Union and all those who are with them. Therefore, the whole world is unanimous on an international conference. We say yes to an international conference which will realize the national rights of the Palestinian people and not to [word indistinct] them. We do not seek more than international legitimacy—international legitimacy, support for international legitimacy, and the implementation of international legitimacy.

We mean an international conference under UN auspices, an effective international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent members and all the parties in the conflict, including the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing.

Thank you, Your Majesty the King, for listening to me and thanks also to the brothers for listening to me. I sincerely wish to see, on this occasion, a gesture from Your Majesty and a gesture from my brothers, because this people is now [words indistinct]. There are no jobs; people stay at home and there are injured people, martyrs, and prisoners. Business is at a standstill and it is forbidden to go to the fields. There are also the military zones. All this requires support. We implored our brothers yesterday and today and we assure His Majesty the King that this people is in need of a fraternal gesture, a gesture of moral and material support.

I am convinced, Your Majesty, that owing to our constant commitment to you and the commitment of our people to all my brothers who represent the Islamic nation, you will always be generous to our people, the people who are sacrificing their lives and shedding their blood. In the name of all the Palestinian revolutionaries, I tell you, Your Majesty, that this revolution, the revolution which carries arms with the mujahidin, the revolution which carries stones, will go on. God said: He sent against them flights of birds striking them with stones of baked clay. This mujahid who carries stones or a stick or who fights by going on strike or the women who stand in defiance of the Israeli repression or this mujahid who stands in the trenches, they will all go on fighting with all the mujahidin in this nation until we liberate Jerusalem.

And God said: ...and to enter your temple as they had entered it before and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. In the name of God the compassionate,

the merciful: God hath purchased of their believers the persons and their goods; for theirs is the garden of Paradise; they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: A promise binding on Him in truth, through the law, the gospel, and the Koran: And who is more faithful to his covenant then God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: That is the achievement supreme. Thank you, Your Majesty.

ICO Head Speaks

LD062121 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0015 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Rabat, 5 Jan (SPA)—The ICO secretary general, Shariffudin Pirzada, has said that the Palestinian people's uprising was a clear indication that the repressive policies pursued by the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories have not succeeded and that the torch of freedom which was lit by the many Palestinian martyrs with their blood was still being held up by those who were sacrificing their lives today.

In a speech delivered at the opening of the emergency session of the Jerusalem Committee, the proceedings of which began earlier today in Ifrane, Pirzada pointed out that the world could not remain silent while the Israeli machinery of destruction was still harvesting Palestinian youth.

He urged the international community to force Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab territories and return to the Palestinian people their dignity and inalienable national rights, including their right to establish an independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, in their Palestinian homeland and under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. [passage omitted]

He stressed that the best practical path towards a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem was through the early convening of an international peace conference with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO. [passage omitted]

He expressed his hope that the Jerusalem Committee would adopt resolutions aimed at the liberation of Jerusalem and the withdrawal of the Zionist enemy from all occupied Arab territories.

Recommendations Issued

LD061951 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Ifrane, Jan 6 (MAP)—The Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Committee, convened here for an emergency meeting at the initiative of King Hassan II to examine the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the holy city of Al-Quds, wound up its works Tuesday evening under the chairmanship of the sovereign by the adoption of a series of recommendations.

The committee reaffirmed condemnation of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories, including the city of Al-Quds al-Sharif and considers the continuation of the occupation as a serious violation of the Palestinian human rights and fundamental freedoms.

It strongly condemns the inhuman Zionist policies and practices inflicted on Arab populations of the occupied Palestinian territories consisting in expulsions, assassination, massive poisoning, confiscation of property, violation and desecration of holy shrines.

The committee calls on the international community to conduct an enquiry under the aegis of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross to determine the extent of the unspeakable crimes perpetrated by Israel against the Arab people of Palestine and to put an end to these crimes.

The Al-Quds Committee hails the uprising of the Arab Palestinian people and follows with keen interest and concern this uprising. It calls on all member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to intensify political and material support to the Palestinian people in its occupied homeland to back its resistance and opposition to the occupier and to its terrorist and racist practices.

The committee also urges the OIC member states to undertake all necessary efforts and political and diplomatic contacts with states as well as within international and regional organizations in order to exert pressures on the Zionist occupying authorities and make them respect [words indistinct] Geneva convention.

It recommends the setting up of Islamic Committees throughout the Islamic world to enhance solidarity with the Palestinian people, extend it material and moral assistance and thus back the revolution that will enable it to liberate its homeland and exercise self-rule. The Al-Quds Committee calls on the councils of Islamic countries' ambassadors in foreign capitals to undertake, the soonest, moves to incite official milieux, political parties, associations and information bodies to denounce and condemn the Zionist practices.

It also urges Islamic information organs to intensify the coverage of events related to the popular uprising in occupied Palestine and inform further the Islamic public opinion about the realities of the situation in the occupied territories.

The committee voices consideration for all the states and international organizations having condemned the Israeli repressive measures and urges them to carry on this action and to exert pressures on Israel to force it put an end to these practices.

It urges the international community to take all possible measures likely to help Palestinian people recover its legitimate rights. The committee points out that neither

Al-Quds nor the other Palestinian territories, nor the whole of the Middle East region can have peace and stability as long as the Palestinian issue, which is at the core of the conflict, is not settled in a lasting and comprehensive way.

The Palestinian people must be ensured the recovery of its national inalienable rights, including the right to its homeland, Palestine, to its properties, to self-determination without any foreign interference, to the free exercise of its sovereignty over its national territory and natural resources and the right to establish an independent and sovereign state in Palestine with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, and this under the leadership of its unique and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the committee added.

The committee calls for the holding, the soonest, of an international peace conference on the Middle East under the aegis of the U.N. and with the participation, on equal footing, of all the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict including the PLO and the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The committee declares Friday 25 Joumada I, 1408 Hejira, corresponding to 15 January 1988 the day of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian people's uprising and calls to devote this Friday's sermon in all the mosques in the Islamic world to this uprising and the sufferings endured by the Palestinian people and its resistance. It also appeals for the performance this same Friday, of the "prayer for the soul of the absent."

It also appeals to the Islamic governments to take the necessary measures with a view to organizing a campaign calling to make a donation worth a labor day, either in cash or in goods, to voice solidarity with the Palestinian people in its uprising.

The Al-Quds Committee endorsed the initiative to send cables to the UN secretary general, the Security Council president and to the heads of state of the Security Council president and to the heads of state of the Security Council member countries urging them to intervene to put an end to the Zionist practices against unarmed Palestinian children in the occupied territories, and to approve the implementation of sanctions against it in line with Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

The committee approves the setting up of a committee, whose members will be chosen by King Hassan II, to get in touch with the UN secretary general and the Security Council permanent members to inform them about the evolution of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and ask them to endeavor for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 605, including the protection of Palestinian citizens under occupation.

The committee expresses gratitude to its chairman, King Hassan II, for the laudable efforts he makes and for having summoned this emergency session of the committee, as this initiative reflects the attention the sovereign grants to the holy city of Al-Quds, to all occupied Arab territories, and to the resistance of the inhabitants of these territories. It also reflects the sovereign's attachment and sustained efforts for the safeguard of the Arab and Islamic sovereignty of the holy city of Al-Quds.

The committee finally asks the OIC Secretariat General to send copies of this declaration to all member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says UN Should Protect Palestinians

LD0616561 Kuwait KUNA in English 1613 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpt] London, Jan 6 (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has again appealed to the international community to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories who are facing massive crackdown from the Israeli authorities. In a interview carried by satellite with him from Algiers, 'Arafat told the Independent Television Network (ITN) here that international protection through UN forces observers, or any other means, should be provided to secure the safety of the Palestinians.

He emphasised that "it is the moral responsibility of Britain and Europe especially" to take action to stop the killing of the civilian Palestinians who are protesting in the West Bank and Gaza.

Responding to a query, Abu Ammar indicated that he had accepted the participation in the international peace conference in order to secure a settlement of the Palestinian problem. He suggested that by doing so he had accepted "to negotiate with my enemy," repeating his famous phrase "I am not dealing with ghosts."

But the Palestinian leader stressed, during the interview with the commercial TV station, that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Arab parties, as well as the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, should all take part "on an equal footing." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Says $11 Million Given to 'Uprising'

JN0711111 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 7 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that a government-in-exile, if formed, needs a political platform approved by the PNC in its capacity as the highest legislative authority.

In statements published in AL-ITTIHAD's weekly issue today, 'Arafat said the Jerusalem Committee, which concluded work in Ifrane the night before last, had approved the extension of $11 million to support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat added that his meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco had turned over a new leaf in Moroccan-PLO relations. The PLO chairman also pointed to the presence of various viewpoints inside the Fatah Movement's Central Committee. However, he emphasized the Palestinian revolution's pride in its democracy.

On the other hand, 'Arafat stated that PLO-Jordanian relations are not at the required level. He added that a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will visit Amman. He expressed his desire for the promotion of Jordanian-Palestinian relations to take place. Regarding relations with Syria, he said that there has been no development except for the exchange of memorandums and visits to Damascus by some Palestinian delegations.

'Arafat Calls U.S. Vote Abstention 'Positive'

LD071121 Kuwait KUNA in English 0828 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 7 (KUNA)—Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Committee has endorsed the grant of 11 million dollars in support of the uprising in the occupied territories. 'Arafat, in a statement to local daily AL-ITTIHAD published here today, added that Al-Quds Committee's recommendations came in harmony with the Islamic support to the uprising. The committee has held a one-day meeting two days ago in Ifrane, Morocco, under the chairmanship of Moroccan monarch King Hassan, to discuss the situation in occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian leader said his meeting with King Hassan has removed all misunderstanding between the monarch and the PLO.

He also affirmed that there is an important development in the American stance toward the Palestinian cause. He noted in this regard to the United States vote for stopping Israel from deporting the Palestinians from the occupied lands and its abstension from the Security Council condemnation of the Israeli practices inside the Arab lands, describing it as "a positive stance."

But he ruled out that this American stance will lead to an American-Palestinian dialogue.

On the proposed Palestinian government in exile, the PLO chairman said this government, if formed, will need a political programme to be drawn by the Palestine National Council (a parliament in exile), the highest legislative authority.

Meanwhile, concerning the PLO-Jordanian relations, 'Arafat expressed hope that there would be a development in these ties, noting that a Palestinian delegation will visit Amman. He declined to mention the date of this visit.

Regarding the PLO's relations with Syria, the Palestinian leader said there are no developments except for exchange of memos and the visits of some Palestinian delegations to Damascus.

'Arafat said that he was scheduled to visit Moscow during this month but it was postponed due to the Palestinian uprising, hoping that he would be able to make it next February.

PLO's Abu Sharif Welcomes Mellor Remarks

JN071115 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Jan 88 p 4

[Text] Fes—Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to the PLO chairman, has welcomed the recent statements made in occupied Palestine by David Mellor, minister of state at the British Foreign Office. He said these statements represent a positive stand which recognizes the truth and the facts, foremost being the need to end the Israeli occupation and grant the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Abu Sharif vehemently assailed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's silence on the crimes of the Israeli occupation despite the fact she has cautioned against the Israeli scheme in this regard. Thatcher also received a memorandum from Lord Winchilsea prior to the massacres the occupation forces committed on 1 January, he added.

PLO Radio, TV Station Opens in South Lebanon

JN062108 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 4 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] AL-SIYASAH has learned that the PLO has inaugurated its own radio and television station in southern Lebanon. The station began its test transmission 2 weeks ago and is calling itself the Voice of Al-Quds. The station has attracted attention in view of its powerful transmission, which covers the occupied territories and the entire greater Syria region.

The station has not identified itself with any particular side and is still transmitting experimentally. AL-SIYASAH has learned that observers have reached the definite conclusion that the station is transmitting from Sidon and that its inauguration came in the wake of the Fatah movement anniversary and the people's uprising in the occupied territory.

Algeria

Benjedid Receives 'Arafat, Hawatimah

LD0700004 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] [President] Chadli Bendjedid received today at the president's office PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP. Following the meeting, Mr 'Arafat made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] We talked with the brother president about the outcome of yesterday's meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, the contacts we had at the United Nations, and the coordination carried out regularly between us and our Algerian brothers on various levels—diplomatic, political, popular, organizational, and partisan. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mr Nayif Hawatimah made this statement:

[Begin recording] The international conscience has been awakened by the revolution of stone-throwing, which will continue until the end of the occupation and the arrival of an international observation force in the Palestinian occupied territories to prepare for securing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence on their national territories. In this respect, we say that Algeria has an important and continuing role to play. It was Algeria who hosted the unity of the PLO, and the Palestinian national unity, on the basis of the initiative undertaken by President Chadli Bendjedid; it was Algeria who stood firmly and seriously on our side, as Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has just said, at the Amman summit, to deter some countries who wanted to behave arrogantly over the Algiers, Rabat, and Fez summits, and to cancel the role played by the Palestinian revolution, the PLO, and the rights of our people. The revolution and the PLO have been made victorious by the resolutions which stressed the rights of our people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Arafat, Hawatimah Address Solidarity Meeting

LD0700012 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] A solidarity meeting with the Palestinian people has just ended at the Ibn Khaldoun Hall, chaired by the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat himself. Naturally, there was a solemn atmosphere at this meeting, all the more so since we know that there is now a real uprising in the occupied territories by Palestinians of all generations. Three generations are rising against the Zionist occupier, Mr 'Arafat said. This is not a spontaneous movement, but is in fact the result of a whole process that began after our harassment in Lebanon, the harassment of the Palestinian population and Palestinian militants in Lebanon, he stated. It is a process which began wave by wave until it broke out in a wave that could drown the Zionist occupiers. Thus, the movement has begun. It will continue; there is no reason why it should fizzle out, Mr 'Arafat asserted. He was loudly applauded here in the hall.

Beside him was Nayif Hawatimah from the DFLP. Mr Hawatimah stated that with 23 years behind it, the Palestinian revolution will continue all the way to self-determination, until the establishment of an independent state on the land of Palestine. No to treaties; no to the Jordanian-Israeli partition plan of Peres. Like your 1 November, Mr Hawatimah said, our revolution is remote from any foreign ideology, and we are ready to take it up to a 100-year revolution. The occupied territories are Palestinian; the people who live there are Palestinian. We are thus entitled to our first right, which is the recovery of our lands.

Mr Hawatimah recalled, like Mr 'Arafat, yesterday's unanimous decision by the Security Council. No one voted against, and there were no abstentions—for the first time the UN body said no to the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories into exile and this, Mr 'Arafat said, like Mr Hawatimah, [as heard] is not due to a liking for the Palestinians, but because with this uprising people see that the Palestinian people are very seriously determined to carry on to the end.

Briefs

Contract With USSR

Five large contracts with the Soviet Union for the supply of a varied range of civil engineering equipment valued at $80 million have just been concluded. Negotiations continue between the Algerian civil engineering equipment company and the Soviet company Tekhnoeksport to expand these contracts so as to embrace other types of equipment such as site dumpers and self-propelling cranes, which would increase the contracts to nearly $100 million. [Excerpt] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 5 Jan 88 LD*]

Television Reception Expands

Television has come to Bordj Omar Driss. This is a reality today thanks to the installation of an earth station by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry. Bordj Omar Driss is northwest of In Amenas in Illizi Wilaya. This project illustrates the national will to end its isolation and to ensure the region's economic and social development. [Text] [*Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 6 Jan 88 LD*]

Chad

Libyan Air Force Plane Flies Over Bardai 6 Jan

AB061918 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The barbarous Tripoli regime is continuing its maneuvers against Chad. Despite the proclamation of a cease-fire, Libya is continuing to violate Chadian airspace. Thus, a Libyan Air Force plane flew over the town of Bardai this morning at 0200 [0100 GMT]. This overflight follows six armed attacks against FANT positions in the east of the country.

Commentary Compares Israeli, Libyan Occupations

AB070944 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The current troubles in the occupied Arab territories are an expression of the violence of the constant struggle of a people—the Palestinian people—against the occupation and colonization of another state; namely, Israel. This form of agitation that the state of Israel answers with repression raises the emotion and indignation of the international community. The struggle of the Palestinian people has the support of most countries. Chad is among those who support the Palestinian cause and has proclaimed its support for this cause at all international forums [words indistinct]. Our country has for over a decade been exp[illegible]ng a similar situation: the occupation of part[illegible]erritory by another country; namely, Libya[illegible]similarity was moreover brought out by the pr[illegible]t of the Republic when he addressed the new A[illegible]n ambassador to Chad. He said that the war im[illegible] on Chad by the Libyan expansionist regime is [illegible] the one Israel is imposing on the Palestinian and Arab peoples. It is an unjust war, contrary to all the principles and rules governing international relations and, notably, contrary to the OAU Charter and all its resolutions, unquote. [no opening quote heard] A brief historical review of the occupation of Palestinian land by Israel and that of part of Chad by Libya will allow one to see the similarity of the Libyan and Israeli policies, and hence the Chadian and Palestinian struggles. [passage omitted]

Apart from the Sinai, which was returned to Egypt, all the other captured Arab areas and territories still remain occupied by Israel. As a result of this, the Arab state of Palestine, scheduled to be created in 1947, has not yet seen the day. Because of Israeli arrogance, all the resolutions adopted at the United Nations and aimed at restoring a just and lasting peace in the Middle East have so far remained a dead letter. [passage omitted]

On the dilomatic front, the arrogance is the same. Just like Israel with respect to Palestine, Libya does not want to hear of the existence of independent Chad at is borders. Just like the Israeli state, the Al-Qadhdhafi's state [words indistinct] at peace talks between Chadians. It can be seen that while claiming to be combating Zionism, Libya is pursuing a similar policy. In view of all these similarities, Israel and Libya appear as (?uncontestable) allies.

Chad, Ethiopia Sign Air Links Agreement

AB052150 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The agreement on the establishment of an air link between Ndjamena and Addis Ababa was signed yesterday evening at the conference hall of Cotton-Tchad [Chadian national cotton producing company]. After 2 days of intense discussions, Chadians and Ethiopian experts finally signed this agreement. The leaders of the two delegations, Colonel Segar Mechessa, director general for civil aviation in Ethiopia, and (Djibangar Madjimbaye), director general for transport and civil aviation, initialed the final communique marking the end of the deliberations. [passage omitted]

Egypt

People's Conference Demands Sanctions on Israel

PM051645 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 4 Jan 88 p 1

[Jamal 'Abd al-Sami' report: "Withdrawal of the Egyptian Ambassador and Expulsion of the Israelis"]

[Text] A people's conference, organized by the doctors union last Friday evening, has urged the government to immediately withdraw the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv and to expel the Israeli diplomatic delegation from Cairo in response to the brutal acts of repression being committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

The conference, which was attended by around 5,000 Egyptian citizens, appealed for an embargo on Israeli and U.S. commodities and goods, and on goods from European states propping up Israel militarily and economically.

Arab Affairs Committee Condemns Israeli Actions

NC071448 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1416 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—In a statement issued today, the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee warned Israel of the consequences of persistently ignoring the recognition of the Palestinians' just cause and insisting on disavowing the Palestinians' legitimate rights. The committee pointed to the serious negative impact this will have on peace, security, and stability in the region.

The committee expressed the hope that Israel will have learned a good lesson from the current Palestinian uprising, realizing that the Palestinian cause will not die, no

matter how long the Israeli occupation of the land continues. It called on Israel to reconsider its policy and its intransigent stances and to hasten to respond to the hands that offer peace.

The committee appealed to the international community to intensify its efforts and speed up the convening of an international peace conference in order to reach a just and peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem. It also denounced the Israeli reaction to the Palestinian uprising, as represented by terrorist acts, detention, expulsion, and all illegal Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

'Abd al-Majid Welcomes UN Resolution

NC061218 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt welcomes the UN Security Council's unanimous resolution calling on Israel to abandon the policy of deporting Palestinians.

In a statement today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Egypt was the first to warn against the grave consequences of the policy of deporting civilians from the occupied territories. It was also the first to declare that this policy contravenes the principles of international law and the 1949 Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians in occupied areas and the impermissibility of deporting them to the territory of the occupying state or the territory of another state.

He declared that Egypt's policy, which seeks to achieve a just and honorable peace and which is fully consistent with international laws and customs, has won full international support.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added: Israel must make a comprehensive review of its policy and abandon its repressive and deportation measures. It must turn to a new page consistent with the will of the international community in order to make it possible to begin the peace process.

Ghali Praises Resolution

NC061558 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has described yesterday's unanimous UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli measures to expel the Palestinians from the occupied territories as a victory for the Arab and Palestinian causes. He said the resolution is also considered a victory for the Palestinian people's rights as the votes in favor of it were unanimous, and included that of the United States.

Dr Ghali stated that the resolution condemned the Israeli measures for their violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention. The resolution said that these measures were a serious violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Dr Ghali made his comment on the UN Security Council resolution in a statement to MENA.

Cairo Radio Criticizes Syria's Inaction

NC051534 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Dealing With Syria Is a Loss of Time and Dignity"]

[Text] Israeli gunboats have attacked and shelled the Al-Rashidiyah camp near the Lebanese town of Tyre. Israeli planes have also staged a barbaric raid on the bases of the PFLP-General Command. The aim of these operations was to avenge the fedayeen operation carried out by Abu Rami late last year. In that operation, Abu Rami used a glider to attack an Israeli camp. We recall here that the PFLP-General Command, which claimed responsibility for the Abu Rami operation, is one of the Palestinian groups very closely linked to the Syrian regime. We would like to ask the following, so that the world public will be informed about all of the facts without embellishment or exaggeration: What is the Syrian regime's position in Lebanon? Has that regime come with its forces, men, and weapons to occupy Lebanon's soil and people? Is the Syrian regime attempting, through its presence in Lebanon, to impose its full control over the PLO and to have the final word on the Palestinian people's future? If this is the aim of the Syrian regime's extensive presence in Lebanon, then we would like to know exactly what its stand is with regard to the issues to which we have referred. Is it a stand of watching Israel while it commits aggression against Lebanon's territories and people?

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 without generating any reaction from the Syrian forces. They did not fire a single shot. The capital, Beirut, was even occupied under the eyes and ears of the Syrian forces, which acted as if they were not at all concerned with this development. Syria's rulers maintained a profound silence throughout the period of Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories. Thus, the Syrian regime exposed itself, proved its impotence, and underlined its penchant for verbosity at a wide distance from the real arenas of fighting. It left the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples to die by the hundreds while confronting Israeli planes and artillery.

The same tragedy is being repeated now. Israeli warplanes and vessels are shelling the camps of the allies of Syria, such as the PFLP-General Command, in the absence of any protest from the Syrian regime or its extensive and trained armed forces, which are imposing their full presence on Lebanon.

The Syrian regime excels in three areas: in talking about solidarity with revolutionary, liberation, and fateful Arab issues; in coining fiery and resounding slogans; and in leveling accusations against all honest people in the region. However, when the moment of truth arrives, it does not talk the language of confrontation and true support, not even to those who deal with it. When Israel strikes at the bases of the PFLP-General Command, it kills the sons of the Palestinian people, regardless of the names or organizations. Hence, the Syrian regime—which has air defense systems, warplanes, and soldiers—acts like an onlooker during the Israeli raids, not firing a single shot. It justifies this on the pretext that it alone must set the time and venue for the battle with Israel. That regime is also declaring day and night that it is in a state of a liberation and revolutionary war with Israel.

That regime is proving to us on a daily basis that it is a false one. It must cease its one-upmanship and resounding speeches. It should allow honest and sincere people to choose the means of real action without demagoguery and wars of words. The Syrian regime has exposed itself in Lebanon, with the Palestinian people, and in the Iraq-Iran war. It has even exposed itself before the heroic Syrian people. It remains for the entire Arab nation—from the Gulf to the ocean—to understand that dealing with the Syrian regime is a loss of time and dignity.

Questions Regime's Motives

NC061739 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Hasan Fu'ad Commentary: "Look at Your History Before You Reiterate Your Rusty Slogans"]

[Text] No one knows precisely what the Syrian regime wants from the Palestinians. What is certain is that the Syrian rulers have fought the Palestinian people in their camps and harmed their organizations more than any other government.

We now hear the Syrian rulers bragging, using words that contradict their deeds and slogans that no longer convince anyone. In their opinion, they are the closest allies and supporters of the Palestinian resistance. They have gone so far as to claim that they alone stand on the side of the Palestinians, while the other Arab countries have done nothing in support of the Palestinians.

Is it true that the Syrian regime, which sent its forces to Lebanon to shell the Palestinian Tall al-Za'tar and Jisr al-Basha camps, is the biggest sympathizer with the Palestinian resistance? Are the Damascus rulers, who have spared no effort to fight the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat, who have used all methods to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the PLO and its representation of the Palestinian people, the supporters of the Palestinian revolution?

We wonder where the logic is in the Syrian words and what excuses they are using. For over 10 years, they have not ceased their attempts to impose their control on the Lebanese and Palestinian people. Their instinct for hegemony still controls them in their relationship with all the Arab states. They are hostile to fraternal Iraq for no reason other than they want their party doctrine to prevail in Baghdad. In their quest for leadership and showmanship, they have encouraged Iranian aggression against Iraqi territory.

What are they bragging about then, and what grounds do they have for claiming pride and glory? Is their biggest pride the loss of the Golan Heights and its capture by the Israeli occupation forces more than 20 years ago? Is the source of their glory their repeated and boring claim that they will choose the time and place of the battle, or their statement that the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue can be postponed indefinitely?

What were the Syrian occupation forces in Lebanon able to do when Israeli planes attacked Al-Rashidiyah camp a few days ago? Before this, what did the Syrian occupation forces do apart from look on when the Israeli forces invaded Lebanese territory in the summer of 1982 and reached the Lebanese capital Beirut?

What is the mission of the Syrian forces in Lebanon if they remain helpless every time Israel invades southern Lebanon or shells the Palestinian camps? How many Palestinians have been killed in the camps by the shellfire of Syrian forces and their allied militias? How many Palestinians have been killed in the camps by Israeli shellfire? The number in both cases is almost similar, and so are the methods used. The Palestinian flow of blood caused by Israeli bullets has also been caused by the bullets of Syrian soldiers and the militias taking their orders from Damascus.

O Syrian rulers, look at your history through the eyes of the Arab nation before you reiterate your allegations that deceive no one. Look at your victims in the Palestinian camps before you utter your slogans that have become rusty from over-repetition.

Arouses 'Regret and Ridicule'

NC071522 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "International Reports on the Syrian Regime's Violations of Basic Human Rights]

[Text] An Amnesty International report has stated that the basic rights of thousands of children are being violated by a number of regimes in the world, particularly Syria, Israel, South Africa, Afghanistan, and Iran. The report adds that more than 2,000 people, including women and children, were killed by Syrian forces in Lebanon by late December 1986. It is really regrettable that virtually not a single international report on basic

human rights violations fails to mention the Syrian regime's practices in this connection. These violations have taken place in Syria itself and in Lebanon, where Syrian forces are present.

When we talk about Syria itself, we find that the basic human rights of the Syrians are being violated daily for no other reason than to protect the existing regime. When the history of the way this regime has ruled Syria comes to be written, one will not find much difference between what happened there and what happened in the countries that have been subjected to the greatest degree of dictatorship and tyranny. What really concerns us here, however, on the occasion of the full-scale Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories, is the Syrian regime's practices against the Lebanese communities that are opposed to it and against the thousands of Palestinians who are living in Lebanon's camps.

At a time when the Palestinian people are facing the most extreme repression at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces, we see that the tragedy of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon continues from day to day, from month to month, and from year to year. This tragedy has resulted from Syria's policy of seeking to control the Palestinian revolution elements, and we say that it is continuing because of this policy. In addition to the Syrian forces' direct repressive measures, the pro-Syrian communities that carry out the whims of the Syrian regime and receive their weapons from it have turned life in the Palestinian camps into hell. The notorious story of the Shi'ite Amal organization and the Palestinian camps in Beirut and south Lebanon is well-known. Further chapters in this tragic story are still being written daily. The siege of hunger and death these camps are subjected to reached the point where it was reported that the inhabitants of these camps at times were living off the flesh of stray animals and corpses. The human conscience today can only shudder at such reports.

What is striking in this connection is the blatant contradiction in the Syrian regime's policy. The declared policy, which the Syrian media brag about, is that Syria has adopted the Palestinian cause with greater ardor than any other country. This claim is made at a time when Syria's practices against the Palestinians are so contrary to this declared policy that they arouse both regret and ridicule.

The Syrian regime's dealings with the PLO, and its desperate efforts to divide the ranks of the PLO, strike at its leaders, and control it for reasons that have nothing whatsoever to do with the supreme Arab and Palestinian interests, constitute the strangest Arab policy witnessed in our time. It is an indisputable fact that these Syrian practices agree in form and substance with Israeli policy on the Palestinian issue. It was not surprising to hear senior Israeli military officials say recently that there is no danger of Syria launching a war against Israel. At the same time, the Syrian regime insists on the notion that war is the only way to settle matter with Israel.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Arrives on Visit

NC051503 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Kuwaiti Finance and Planning Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 4-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, the Kuwaiti minister will meet with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

In an arrival statement, Jasim al-Kharafi expressed pleasure over visiting Cairo, which comes at the invitation of the brothers in Egypt. He added that he will hold talks on bilateral economic relations. The Kuwaiti finance minister further disclosed that he will also sign a loan agreement for the pharmaceutical industry authority. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC060926 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi at the Presidential Palace this morning. Also attending the meeting were Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, Minister of State for International Cooperation Dr Maurice Makramallah, and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Kandari. The Kuwaiti minister arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 4-day visit.

Al-Kharafi Comments on Talks

NC061242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Mubarak today, Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi stated that this was his first visit to Egypt since the resumption of full diplomatic relations between the two countries, and that he had had the honor of meeting Mubarak to crown his visit. He said that his talks with President Mubarak focused on his excellency's support and encouragement of economic cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait. He stressed that President Mubarak and the amir of Kuwait are eager to deal with any negative factors and support the positive aspects of economic and investment cooperation. He noted that Kuwait is one of the biggest Arab contributers in Egyptian projects, and that the aim of his visit is to discuss ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the interest of both countries. He pointed out that he will hold frank and constructive discussions on ways to expand Kuwaiti investment in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Asked about press reports on the possibility of the Gulf countries paying Egypt's military debts and whether this issue had been broached with President Mubarak, the Kuwaiti finance minister emphasized that this issue will be discussed with President Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz described the visit to Egypt by the Kuwaiti finance minister as important. He expressed his hope that its positive effects in the economic and investment fields will appear in the near future in the interest of both peoples. He noted that he will discuss constructive cooperation and expansion of investment projects with Al-Kharafi.

Discusses Visit With Press

LD061823 Kuwait KUNA in English 1558 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi said here Wednesday strengthening economic cooperation between Kuwait and Cairo was the main objective of his current visit to Egypt and that he will be examining possible expansion of Kuwaiti investments here.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with President Husni Mubarak, Al-Kharafi said his Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and the Egptian president were working to eliminate negatives and exploit positive signs in areas of investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Al-Kharafi's remarks to reporters were quoted by the official Egyptian Middle East News Agency (MENA).

Asked to comment on reports which claimed that Arab Gulf countries might pay Egypt's military debts in return for Egyptian military backing, the Kuwait minister said the issue was not raised during his talks with President Mubarak.

In Kuwait, Mubarak was quoted in a press interview Wednesday as flatly denying press reports that his country agreed to send 10,000 troops to the Gulf area to help repel a potential foreign threat in return for five billion dollars.

Mubarak who will visit Kuwait next week dismissed the reports as "fabricated" adding in his interview with Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA'"...we are not mercenaries."

Al-Kharafi, answering another question, said he had no idea about the topics President Mubarak will discuss with H.H. the amir of Kuwait when he visits there on Monday.

But he said the amir, the government and people of Kuwait will be happy to receive the Egyptian president.

Kuwait and other eight Arab countries restored diplomatic links with Cairo last November after an eight-year rupture which followed the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The Kuwaiti finance minister who arrived in Cairo Tuesday night said his country was one of the largest Arab contributors to Egyptian economic projects.

Confers with 'Atif Sidqi

LD061829 Kuwait KUNA in English 1632 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Finance Minister Jasim Muhammed al-Kharafi conferred for the second time Wednesday with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi on promoting cooperation between the two countries in investment areas, the official Middle East News Agency reported.

The talks were attended by the delegation accompanying Al-Kharafi and Egypt's Finance Minister Muhammed al-Razzaz and State Minister for International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah, MENA said.

The Egyptian finance minister described Al-Kharafi's visit as important and hoped its positive results will become tangible soon.

Al-Razzaz said he will later discuss with Al-Kharafi economic cooperation and the possibility of expanding the scope of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt.

Al-Kharafi discussed the same topics with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning.

Meets With Yusri Mustafa

NC071234 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met at noon today with Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi, who is currently visiting Egypt.

In a statement to reporters after the meeting, Dr Mustafa said that they had exchanged views on the economic situation in Egypt and on ways to promote and further bilateral trade. The talks also dealt with the possible establishment of a joint company for concluding barter deals. He added that the Kuwaiti contribution to investment in Egypt had also been discussed. The Kuwaiti minister, he stated, raised some of the problems facing the investment process in Egypt in general. He noted in this respect the Egyptian Government's efforts to surmount the difficulties facing the investment drive in Egypt. He added: It has been the strategy of the Egyptian Government since 1974 to invite all sorts of investment funds to take part in the development projects, noting the guarantees available in this field, the most important of which is the atmosphere of stability that Egypt currently enjoys. [passage omitted]

Kuwati Monetary Fund Agrees To $35 Million Loan

NC061646 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Health Minister Dr Muhammad Raghib Duwaydar has stated that the Kuwaiti Monetary Fund has agreed to grant Egypt a loan of 10 million Kuwaiti dinars, equivalent to U.S. $35 million, to be used for the pharmaceutical industry, for renovations and replacements in pharmaceutical factories, and for importing raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry. Egypt will be charged 3.5% on the loan, which is to be repaid within 15 years, with a grace period of 7 years. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahjub Leads Delegation to Baghdad for Talks

NC041531 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub departed Cairo for Baghdad this afternoon at the head of an Egyptian delegation. While in Baghdad, the delegation will hold talks with Iraqi officials on aspects of cooperation between the two brotherly nations. Dr al-Mahjub told our radio correspondent that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with Arab relations and common Arab issues.

YAR Deputy Prime Minister Arrives 6 Jan

NC061247 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, YAR deputy prime minister and chairman of the YAR Solidarity and Peace Council, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this morning for a visit of several days. Upon his arrival, Makki said that he had come in response to an invitation from the Egyptian Committee on Solidarity of the African and Asian Peoples to discuss ways of promoting and expanding cooperation between the YAR Solidarity and Peace Council and the Egyptian Solidarity Committee. [passage omitted]

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC071333 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Hasan Makki, YAR deputy prime minister, who is currently visiting Cairo. The Yemeni guest stated that they reviewed Arab issues, the Palestinian cause, and the uprising in the occupied territories during their meetings. He said Egypt and the YAR support the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and stress the importance of taking the necessary action to hold the international peace conference. Makki also asserted that the Palestinian uprising demonstrates the importance of helping the Palestinians restore their legitimate rights, which have been supported by international resolutions.

The YAR deputy prime minister said that YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has invited President Husni Mubarak to visit Yemen, adding that Yemen will be pleased if President Mubarak responds to this invitation, either during his tour of the Gulf countries scheduled to begin next week or whenever he finds it convenient.

Oman's Al-Zawawi Arrives in Cairo 4 Jan

NC040917 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—'Umar al-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman, arrived here this morning on a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC051050 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—'Umar al-Zawawi, adviser to Sultan Qabus, left Cairo for home this morning, concluding a visit to Cairo which he began yesterday.

He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Niklawi of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Malian Agriculture Minister Concludes Visit

NC032216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Malian Agriculture Minister Issa Ongoiba left Cairo this evening following a visit to Egypt of several days during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Malian agriculture minister also held talks with Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, on ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The two countries signed an agreement under which Egypt will increase the number of training scholarships it grants to Malians.

Netherlands Said To Write Off 1986/87 Debt

NC051919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of International Cooperation stated today that the Netherlands Government has informed the Egyptian Government that it is writing off Egyptian Government debts which had matured in 1986 and 1987. The source said that this was done within the context of the good relations between Egypt and the Netherlands. [passage omitted]

This decision is the first of its kind by one of Egypt's 18 creditor countries.

It is noteworthy that Egypt has concluded debt-rescheduling agreements with France, Spain, the United States, and Denmark. Negotiations on debt rescheduing will take place with other countries next week.

Mubarak Meets With FRG Economics Minister
NC041137 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received FRG Economics Minister Martin Bangemann, who is currently visiting Cairo, at the Presidential Palace this morning. The meeting was attended by Minister of Tourism Fu'ad Sultan and Martin Elsaesser, FRG ambassador in Cairo.

Bangemann Ends Visit, Departs
NC041452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—FRG Economics Minister Martin Bangemann left Cairo this afternoon at the conclusion of a 10-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Austria's Mock Departs at End of Visit
NC051536 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Dr Alois Mock, Austrian vice chancellor and foreign minister, departed from Cairo this afternoon following a 10-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

During his official stay in Cairo, the Austrian vice chancellor held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning. The discussions were aimed at bolstering and developing political, economic, and cultural cooperation between Egypt and Austria.

Dr Alois Mock and his wife also spent their new year vacation in Luxor, Aswan, and Al-Ghurdaqah.

Norwegian Oil Minister Arrives 2 Jan
NC021422 Cairo MENA in English 1350 GMT 2 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Arne Oien, Norwegian minister of oil and energy, arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon for a week-long visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Norwegian minister will hold talks with 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, on the promotion of bilateral cooperation in oil prospecting and production, as well as in efforts to stabilize the international oil market. [passage omitted].

Italy's EEC Affairs Minister Arrives in Cairo
NC011329 Cairo MENA in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, Jan 1 (MENA)—The Italian minister for EEC affairs arrived here today on a three-day visit for talks with deputy premier and foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the EEC role regarding international affairs and Middle East problems in particular.

Upon arrival the Italian official said he will deliver a lecture at the Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Institute on the difficulties facing the EEC and conflicts in the Mediterranean.

The Italian official was welcomed upon arrival by Ambassador Yahya Rif'at, assistant foreign minister.

Cypriot Interior Minister Arrives on Visit

Confers With Zaki Badr
NC031353 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr received Cypriot Interior Minister Konstandinos Mikhailidhis in his office today. During the meeting, cooperation between Egypt and Cyprus, particularly in security-related areas, was discussed.

Alexandros Siambos, Cypriot ambassador to Cairo, as well as Major General Baha' al-Din Ibrahim and Major General Mustafa Kamal, assistants to the interior minister, attended the meeting.

The Cypriot minister arrived in Cairo this morning on a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Notes 'Fruitful Talks'
NC071031 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Cypriot Interior Minister Konstandinos Mikhailidhis left Cairo this morning following a 4-day visit to Egypt. In a predeparture statement, the Cypriot guest said that his visit had been extremely successful. He noted that he had held fruitful talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Interior Minister Zaki Badr on ways to strengthen the ties of friendship between Egypt and Cyprus and expand the scope of bilateral cooperation in the field of security.

Bangladesh President Concludes Visit, Departs
NC070810 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Bangladesh President Hussain Ershad, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for home this morning after a 4-day official visit to Egypt. While in Cairo, President Ershad

held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who with Mrs Mubarak saw the Bangladesh president off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh Signs Maritime Cooperation Agreement
NC051620 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 5 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and Bangladesh signed a 5-year cooperation agreement in the sphere of maritime transport today. The agreement will go into effect after 30 days. Eng Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman , Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, and Zafar Iman, Bangladesh minister of jute, who is visiting Cairo as a member of the delegation accompanying President Hussain Ershad, signed the agreement.

Following the signing ceremony, which took place at the Presidential Palace, Eng Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman stated that the purpose of the agreement is to develop trade and economic relations between the two countries and to grant facilities to ships of both states in Egyptian and Bangladesh ports. [passage omitted]

State Security Prosecution Releases 57 Students
NC061635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—The Supreme State Security Prosecution decided today to release 57 'Ayn Shams University students on bail ranging from 30 to 50 pounds. The security authorities arrested these students while they were demonstrating outside the university campus yesterday. The prosecution charged them with taking part in unauthorized demonstrations.

Dawud Confirms Desire To Remain With Nasirites
PM071329 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jan 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "After Lifting of Political Ban: Cairo: May Group Studies Possibility of Unifying Efforts To Establish Nasirite Party"]

[Text] Cairo—Diya' al-Din Dawud, member of the Executive Committee of the disbanded Socialist Union in Egypt, has confirmed that he is not contemplating joining any of the current Egyptian parties and that he will remain as one of the founding members of the Nasirite Socialist Party.

In exclusive statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT concerning his anticipated political activities since he and the May Group obtained a court ruling abrogating the political prohibition on them, he noted that they will not be submitting their party's manifesto to the parties committee but will wait for the court ruling to be passed in February in the suit filed by Farid 'Abd al-Karim, cofounder of the other Nasirite party, when the Egyptian political parties committee refused to give its consent. He indicated a current intention of concluding an agreement between the founder of that party and the founders of the party to which he belongs (the Nasirite Socialist Party), especially since the two manifestos approximate one another, and it would be preferable to unite their efforts in order to announce one party.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian Court a few days ago passed a decision abrogating the political ban imposed by the government on a number of politicians known as the "May Group," in a reference to the famous events which took place on the 15th of that month in 1971. The group includes 'Ali Sabri, Sha'arawi Jum'ah, Muhammad Fawzi, Sami Sharaf, Labib Shuqair, and Muhammad Fa'iq as well as Diya' al-Din Dawud.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Visit Tunis
LD041700 Kuwait KUNA in English 1254 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 4 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Tunis in the coming few days and is likely to be carrying a unity proposal akin to the one that he suggested to Algeria last year, AL-ANWAR weekly newspaper reported Monday.

The report coincided with rumors that Libya was seeking to join Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania in the fraternity and accord agreement but well-placed diplomatic sources here indicated that the Arab Maghreb countries would rather opt for a yet higher degree of coordination.

According to the same sources, Morocco and Algeria have decided to bypass their differences over the Western Sahara and strengthen cooperation between them.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses People's Congress
LD062123 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1825 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting of the Sidi al-Khalifah Basic People's Congress on 6 January—live or recorded]

[Text] Permit me to make some observations. The first thing one learns from attending a Basic People's Congress, either as a member or as part of a council like this one here, is how power is exercised. All of us who attend a Basic People's Congress are actually going to a school to learn every day and at every session how to wield authority. Clearly, someone who was present yesterday and today will be in a better situation. When he goes back to his family, he will say: I understood things today, and have begun to feel like a conscious citizen. I feel that I am really in charge and today I established a bank and a company, as well as a central firm, and created the post of a secretary accountable to me.

I have become the master. It is I who say: Make a record of this or that. All my words are taken down. Afterward, I learned other things from various colleagues who spoke, and found out where (?we are going). I heard about investments. There are 93 companies spread around the world who export goods to us, and they made such and such a profit. I learned where Fiat's money has gone, and was told that they put it in a vault, and so on. That is the first thing about attending a Basic People's Congress: We learn to wield power, how to do it. Then we learn other things, education.

In fact, anyone who attends a Basic People's Congress gets some education, and becomes a conscious citizen. There are things that you learn at the university that can be understood only if you are a graduate. You learn these things in one or two congress sessions, and you resemble a graduate of a program in politics or economics. That is the second benefit.

Finally, in addition to learning, we decide our own destiny. We decide our fate, we make decisions about our money, eating and drinking, our political positions, and our friends and enemies. We define our stance toward them. Each of us feels that he has decided everything. Ours are the only people who cannot, or do not stage demonstrations or sit-ins. That is true because the Libyan people are the rulers. Other people have protests every day. They stage sit-ins, and engage in civil disobedience against the ruling authority, the authority that directs them.

The Egyptian people want to sever relations with the enemy. They want to expel its embassy from Egypt, fight the enemy, and stand beside the Palestinian people. However, its government sides with the United States and Zionism. Well, look here: If the people actually made policy there, they would have no need to demonstrate or protest. The people's congresses would have met, and would have decided to break relations with the Zionist enemy without any demonstrations, repression, or tear gas. Today, though, the people have no power. As such, they are forced to take to the streets, and to put up with the tear gas and trucheons of the Egyptian police to express their opinions. They must shout to make the world hear their views. And in the end, the shouting in the streets may be in vain.

Get hit and go back home; the government's policies remain in step with the United States and Zionism. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the Egyptian people's revolution. [applause] Yesterday, I saw Egypt's heroes challenging Egypt's government lackeys. They were shouting for their own revolution and for martyrdom on Palestine's behalf. I saw the Egyptian people angry, and looked on as they expressed their support for the Palestinian people in their decisive battle against the Zionist enemy and for the liberation of Palestine. Their actions were totally opposed to the Egyptian regime's policy of recognizing something called Israel and claiming that only the West Bank and Gaza are occupied.

The Egyptian people want Palestine to be free. They are cause for hope that Egypt may be liberated and that the plans of the United States, Zionism, and their allies may be exposed to the storm of an Arab nation set on liberation. By the way, I should note that the points of little importance on the agenda do not concern this congress, but from this congress we address all Basic People's Congresses.

I would ask: How is a people's committee, including the General People's Committee, held accountable? How can a committee, or a [word indistinct] or member, or its secretary be brought down? We are now discussing the General People's Committee for the Treasury. This is the report on its activities. We can take it as a model for the other committees. The Sidi al-Khalifah Basic People's Congress has recorded its observations on the activities of the General People's Committee for the Treasury. Through its discussion of this company, the external bank, Egypt [words indistinct] these observations are recorded by the drafting committee of this congress.

The same thing applies to all the 1,000 or 2,000 congresses in the Jamahiriyah. They record the same observations on the General People's Committee for the Treasury when they study the report of the Treasury. All the notes on the Treasury from all the Basic People's Congresses are collected at the municipal conferences. Those of us here belong to the municipal branch of Sidi al-Khalifah in Tripoli. All the conferences in the city of Tripoli, from the branches to the city of Tripoli itself, collect all the notes on the Treasury made by all the basic people's conferences. They come to the municipal conference once the basic people's conferences have concluded their discussions and have treated every point on their agendas. All their notes are taken to the municipal conference, which is attended by the secretaries of the basic people's conferences in Tripoli. The secretaries meet in a conference for the city of Tripoli. Each of them, including your secretary, brings your notes on the Treasury, for instance. All your notes, but let us assume [words indistinct] he brings your notes on the Treasury. Everything that has been said has been recorded and he brings it with him to the municipal conference. I am telling you what happens to the comments you make here.

The views and remarks of the basic people's conferences in the city of Tripoli on the General People's Committee for the Treasury are collected and taken to the municipal conference of the city of Tripoli. They are then compared, like profits and losses. We look at the positive and negative comments about the General People's Committee for the Treasury, the investment company, the external bank, other companies, the central bank, other commercial banks, and all the other financial activities that come under the General People's Committee for the Treasury.

The specialized people's committees, as well as the qualitative committees in the city of Tripoli, attend the municipal conference. When this is the municipal conference, the basic people's committee for Tripoli comes

here. The municipal conference for the city of Tripoli presents these notes to the People's Treasury Committee in Tripoli. That committee then makes its observations on those notes. If this committee, which was formed by the municipal conference, is so authorized, it can judge whether they are dropped, or whether its secretary or one of its members is dropped.

When the matter concerns the General People's Congress, the municipal secretaries take the summary from the municipal conferences we discussed and bring it to the General People's Congress. The qualitative general people's committees come before us, including the General People's Committee. The General People's Committee for the Treasury comes before us, and we have all the remarks about the Treasury made by people at basic people's conferences throughout the Jamahiriyah. Like judgment day, nothing [words indistinct] the good and evil against this committee. They reach the General People's Committee. The secretary of every municipal conference comes and brings a summary of the views expressed on the Treasury by his municipal conference. That is true of this municipality, the next, and the next. We collect them at the General People's Conference, the Secretariat of the General People's Conference, and from them we issue the final draft, the gist, the conclusion.

What has been said for and against this committee? Did it win or lose before the people's conferences? Then the General People's Conference makes the decision, as it selected the secretary of the committee. He says the General People's Committee for the Treasury has been dropped by the people's conferences, as its policy on this or that point was bankrupt, and was a failure. Or he may say that the basic people's conferences are grateful to this committee and it has become clear that it carried out the task entrusted to it by the basic people's congress in the best possible way, and that the committee will remain in place. Or he may say that the committee will stay, but that the conference has made some observations: The committee should show some interest in this subject, that company, Fiat's investments, the external bank, increase or reduce the number of those firms; in other words, the remarks you made to him. Other conferences may make similar or different comments on the same issue.

I am telling you how the work is done. A citizen just said here: By God I spoke, but it was like a cry in the wilderness. I spoke at the conference in Sidi al-Khalifah and what then, will that bring down the secretary of the General People's Committee? It can. How? You can drop the governor of the Libyan Central Bank. I, a citizen who lives in Sidi al-Khalifah, can secure the dismissal of the governor of the Libyan Central Bank. Is that reasonable? You can bring him down. Your word can bring him down. How? Your comments are recorded by the drafting committee, which the secretary of your conference takes to the municipal conference for the city of Tripoli.

This applies to all the remarks by all the other members about the governor of the Libyan Central Bank, for instance. All the views on a particular person, bank, or committee are collected at the Tripoli municipal conference. At that point, those remarks that are not within the purview of the municipal conference are taken to the General People's Conference by the secretaries of the municipal conferences. They are collected there. If they are against him, he falls. Who brought him down? Your comments, and yours, and those of another citizen at another conference, and those of a citizen in Jaghbub, a citizen in Aozou, a citizen in Ghat, a citizen in Gharyan, and a citizen in Misratah. Everyone who said this spoke, and they were right. They condemned this particular committee or bank. There is no (?hot air).

Finally, they are all assembled and strengthened, for if you have one positive opinion, and then another, the positive aspect is reinforced. If you have one negative opinion, then another and another still, these opposing views, these negative views of a given party grow stronger. They are assembled at the municipal conference level, and those measures that fall within the purview of the municipal conference will be completed through change, elimination, retention, expressions of gratitude, and so on. At that point, those that do not fall within the purview of the municipal conference are sent on to the General People's Congress. Our current debate will be reflected in the people's committees. I can say that the Treasury [words indistinct]. However, the other point, in other words, this is the method; how do these opinions work? How does each of us know that his words were not in vain? For their part, how do the secretaries of congresses know how these opinions will be formulated from the basic to the municipal conference, and from the municipal conference to the General People's Congress?

You may ask: Where is the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury? He's not here. It would be reasonable to dismiss him. He hasn't come before me, I haven't seen him at all, I don't even know what he looks like. Why should I care? I do. We would collect everything you say [word indistinct] to the municipality and he would go there. If he did not go to the municipal conference, he will go to the treasury committee in Tripoli of the municipal conference, and the secretary of the General People's Committee for the Treasury will come before the General People's Congress. All these views will be transferred from one file to the next until they reach the General People's Congress. That is how you, from your present place and without moving, can have your say on any institution or committee and can support it or get rid of it.

However, we should not always have elimination, elimination, and elimination on our minds. We will always support anything positive. We will keep it, and will eliminate anything negative. We should not be constantly asking ourselves why something has not been

eliminated. If it is beneficial it will remain. However, this is not a case of: Why was it eliminated, or why was it not? That is your own assessment.

Afterward, I would truly be pleased with this debate if it were to continue in every congress without speeches and the like. I would oppose anyone who would appear in Tubruq without any information on industry and say: Our industry has failed; this is not the way. No, no, these speeches do only harm, they stain your reputation in (?the world). There is no problem if you have statistics from a report. How could someone come and deliver a speech claiming that industry was a failure? How did it fail? That is not a responsible statement, as everyone can judge his comment and he cannot defend himself. How did it fail? Bring your proof.

I know this: I can say that the Libyan Arab company for foreign investment has been a success [words indistinct] this report. This one has founded 93 companies, and has made a profit of 17 million. We have conducted an audit, and after all these observations, we found that it was effective, and was turning a profit [words indistinct]. It is making a profit in every field, and even if it had losses in certain sectors, it has compensated for them. In this case, we can call it a success, and if someone asks: Who told you it was successful, you can answer: Its secretary is so and so. Correct, and the one with him deserves a medal. Someone would come and ask you: Are you just talking nonsense? You would reply: No, that's what the report says. My comments are based on the report. Then the person will say: You are dead right. When you know the truth, you can say it is successful or whatever. But if you claim out of the blue that industry is a failure and agriculture is too, that will not be to your credit.

I said yesterday that there should be no speeches. There should be scientific dialogues like this one. What should we discuss? The activity of a firm, for instance, or the import of goods and services required by the Libyan market? What did it import? It brought in tomato puree, olive oil, tea, fish, shoes, and medicine. What was the benefit? Seventeen million. How much capital does it have? So many millions. How many firms contributed? Ninety-three. Where are they located? That is how the dialogue should be. You don't need speeches to do that.

Now that we have read this page, I am pleased with the way you are going about your business. Someone said that reports on us should have been distributed from the start. Put that on record. That remark should be put down, noting that from this year on, all congresses should distribute as many reports as possible on the secretariats, congresses, and so on. Then you said: Make things easier. The secretariats and people's committees should be thinking of ways to simplify reports for the people's congresses.

Someone else commented on a firm, and said it should be required to train Libyans in investment techniques. We should write that down. Then, during the municipal conference, we will invite representatives of the firm, and tell them that, even if they are not responsible for training, they must, as stipulated by the congresses, train Libyans. They must see to it that Libyans gain experience in investment. They must assume this responsibility in light of the decisions made by the congresses. The firm may answer: We will train Libyans, but we need more capital. We need so many millions more, which will make it possible for us to begin training sessions, send people around, and so on. They will be called to account for it the year after. We gave you the job of training Libyans, and how many did you train? How much did you spend on them? Was the project a success or a failure? It might suffer a loss, and then we would have to revoke this recommendation or decision.

Then, the financial report. You, the firm, the congresses, want to know how you could insure 93 firms around the world in the event of a change in the political systems of those states. Were there any losses of this kind? Were the firms insured or not? I am talking about questions that may never occur to me. I would have sent a report saying: Great, what a joy, this firm has a profit of 17 million. It must be successful. You raised things that had truly never occurred to me. The people are the teacher. I would never tell you that so and so can teach you; no, I couldn't take that. The people are the teacher, and, as you have seen, you have taught me a few things. I was happy about the 17 million mentioned in the financial report. Then someone asked: Tell me, where did that 17 million come from? It might have been at our expense. I thought he was dead right. Let's check. [laughter, applause]

At that point, someone else said: As for people's qualifications, I think there are people qualified to work in this firm, people that could be of help. They applied for work in investment on the basis of their experience, but their applications were put aside. We will leave that for the municipal conference, the member responsible for the Treasury, then the People's Committee for the Treasury at the Tripoli municipal level, then the People's Committee for the Treasury at the Jamahiriyah level at the General People's Congress. We will raise this question with them. We have made many applications [words indistinct] it would say: I have 500 applications that I have not considered, because I didn't need them, or because they were a burden for me, or because they weren't qualified, or I only took those I needed. Thus, the citizen who made the remark will have an answer. [Indistinct remarks by unidentified member of the audience, followed by laughter]

Right, right. That's a good observation. One of you just said: Look, as soon as you heard about a company with some 93 foreign ventures, every one of you wanted to go abroad and work in one of its subsidiaries. Everyone wants to go abroad and work in those subsidiaries. Well,

those subsidiaries aren't hostels. We should not send people abroad unless they are needed. The people and the congresses should decide this. Every citizen and congress should tell every other citizen and congress so a resolution to that effect will go before the municipal conferences, then before the General People's Congress, then before the General People's Committee, and before these companies informing them of the people's decision that foreign investment is not like a hostel. Not every one has a friend who can get him a job in the company, regardless of the profits which the firm or its investments may make. Only a small number of capable people should be employed. Otherwise, the company would be a hospice. Everyone would come and say: Get me a job overseas with your company in Thailand.

Moreover, the congresses—this one, for instance—have asked about the political return on such ventures. We have to make a political assessment of our presence in those countries. Such an assessment should be made by other congresses within the municipalities. Their information, in turn, would be assembled and presented before the municipal conference, which should study them in light of the report from the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. Its report would say, for instance, that we have investments in Guinea, we have foreign investment in Guinea. Now, what does the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison say about Guinea? Let's assume that the report said Guinea did not vote in our favor on a given issue, and that Guinea has restored relations with the Zionist enemy.

The report might say, for example, that Guinea condemned the NATO aggression against us, that Guinea supports our right to the Gulf of Sidra, and so on. Then we have to ask ourselves why the Guineans have been our friends. They have been our friends because we have given them aid. We have a company that has been granting them loans and helping them in their agrarian reform. Then, as another example, we can look at the file on Togo. We have investments in Togo; our company has made profits in Togo, and Togo, too, has benefitted from them. However, Togo has restored its relations with the Zionist enemy. We have a joint defense pact with it, and it violated that agreement. Moreover, Togo has been hostile to other countries we see as friends—Ghana and Burkina Faso, for instance. In the end, the file will be black on Togo, a country we have been investing in! Then, the people might ask why, and might decide that we should stop our investment in Togo to deprive and punish it, as its policy has been unfriendly to us and to the cause of freedom.

This should be the method of discussion. The first point should cover ways of making the people's committees answerable to the Basic People's Congresses, to the municipal conferences, and to the General People's Congress. I hope my explanation has been clear.

As for the case of the Palestinian people, I would like to reiterate to you that they are now staging a revolution against occupation, and are waging their fight with stones. I have spoken with a number of Palestinian leaders, and it has become clear to me that the Palestinians find it hard to educate their children, who do not want to study in the occupied territories or are abroad and refused entry. The children of Palestinians outside Palestine are not allowed to study in B'ir Zayt University or any other. They are not permitted to attend the Islamic University of Gaza, or the religious institute there.

Despite our moral support for the Arab nation and the fact that we are its very conscience and voice, we have been stingy in material terms, not only toward our Arab nation but toward Africa, as well. It is easy for some people to say: Look, look, an African has arrived and his suitcase will surely be filled with money from us. [laughter, applause] Alas, there is no money and no promise of money. You know that if we were giving them money we would bring them here, like the French do. France pays the salaries of its employees, from the salary of the president to those of the police in some countries. France is paying them in order to win them over. If it whistles for them, they will come. If it tells them to stand against the Libyans, they will do so. If it tells them to oppose the regime, they will do so, and if it tells them to support it, they will do that, too. If it tells them to stand by France, they do. That is what these states are really paid to do.

However, if we were giving money to the Africans, they would... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] On the contrary, we are stingy, and the suitcase, if they actually bring one, do you think there will be anything in it? He will be carrying an empty one. In any case, this will be decided by the people's congresses. They say: This is the budget of, say, 1 billion dinars. Set aside 100 million for aid and loans to friendly states and for political action. Make it 50 million, 10 million, or whatever.

From there, the General People's Committee and the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison can dispose of this amount freely that year. If they spend it all, fine; we agreed to that. If they spend only part of it, that's no loss. After that point, we don't care if someone brought a bag or a suitcase along with him. It is no concern of ours, for we know what we have allocated; it doesn't matter. From the start we said: That's it. We approve 10 million a year. If you want to spend it, spend it. You are your own judges. The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison looks at these countries, and it will see what their needs are.

In fact, we are stingy with our Arab nation first of all. We have not paid... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] I suggest to the Libyan people that in addition to deciding on emergency assistance for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and their social and other institutions, we should build a Palestinian university for a few thousand Palestinians—4, 5, or 10 thousand Palestinian students. This university should be built either in Palestine or in Libya. Thus, the Libyan people would have done something that will give them peace of mind, because, as I have been told by leaders of the Palestinian resistance,

the situation is truly depressing. They tell me: We go knocking on doors in Kenya asking that country to take 20 of our students. We go to Tanzania and ask it to take 10. We go to Austria and beg it to take some more. We do the same in other countries. We say to Pakistan, India, and whoever else, you are our friend, and to Yugoslavia, take 10 of our students.

Indeed, this is not right. We must maintain our sense of dignity and decide to build an entire university, a university built by the Libyan people in appreciation of the revolution which the Palestinian people have launched with stones to confront the Zionist enemy backed by U.S. imperialism. This would be useful to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, and it would hurt the enemy at the same time. Our children will no longer be expelled by the Jews, the reactionaries, the United States, or Canada. They will wander no more. This will be one way of gathering the Palestinians instead of letting them study in other countries, where they will get lost and where they will graduate, after which we will no longer recognize them. Indeed, thousands of Palestinians have taken foreign citizenship and have been lost. This policy hurts us, as the Palestinian people are gradually disappearing. Therefore, the Palestinian people should not even take the citizenship of an Arab country. That should not be allowed. They should not have passports either.

They should have a Palestinian document so that the Palestinian identity is not lost. In other words, the Jews and the West want the Palestinians to melt into the Arab world and melt into the world. I am of course against a Palestinian who comes and says I am originally a Libyan and I am from the Khuraybish family, or I do not know what family. I am here and (?ask) to reside here. This is treason, running away from battle—never. Even if you were of Libyan origin, you are a Palestinian. You remain a Palestinian, part of the Palestinian people, until you return. One comes and says I have been living in Libya for 20 years, I have become a Libyan and married a Libyan.

This is a mistake; a Palestinian should not marry a non-Palestinian Arab, because he does so to become part of this non-Palestinian Arab people, to blend in and live there [words indistinct]. And after a period he even gets citizenship and then forgets. This should not be permitted. The Palestinian should remain a Palestinian. Your origin is Libyan or not Libyan. What [words indistinct] we are all of the same origin, we are all Arabs of the same origin if we begin to search for the origin. But now your identity is Palestinian. How does it concern me if your origin is Libyan? Even the Libyan comes from a Yemeni origin! We are Arabs of the same tribe, the same grandfather. But now you are in the geographical or political division, or the political attitude; you are a Palestinian, even if you are my brother.

If you live in Palestine, stay in Palestine, for you are considered to be a Palestinian. So that their sons do not become lost, searching for education, and melt away in this way, I ask that we decide to establish a university. We want the conferences to discuss it. Of course, people like a discussion. Present it to the conference. If you agree, you should know what it needs, its budget, how much, and so on. Do not just say we agree; you should know how much you will pay. Perhaps one could request an estimate for how much a university costs, for instance. The idea should be presented to the conferences, if you agree, the specialist people's committees will make. [sentence as heard]

Implementation—and this is a warning—of course, implementing previous resolutions of the basic people's conferences should be directed toward production. It should also be in agreement with the jamahiri theory stating that wages are enslavement, that the wage earner is a slave—since salaries are wages—and that he who receives a salary is in reality enslaved—anxious about his fate and the fate of his family and his future—because he does not know whether his wages will continue all the time or not, especially if his income comes from oil. When there is an oil crisis, he will be left without a salary, and his children will go hungry. Then his wages could be cut. You make a mistake, do something wrong, show up late, or damage a public car, and then they hold a disciplinary council and fine you either a month's or 2 weeks' salary. Sometimes you make a mistake or do something wrong at your job, and then you are fired. As the regulations require, they hold a review for you, and then they dismiss you. You may also lose the ability to work at your job due to an accident, illness, or something else. Then you remain at basic pay.

You will be forced to retire, and so on. What I mean is that he who gets paid from the state treasury does not live happily. He lives a life of anxiety, he and his family. He does not know if he will get all of his money next month. Will they sell enough oil to pay me my salary or not? Will they deduct anything from it this month or not? Maybe I will have an accident and my salary, or half of it, will be cut. Some crime may occur, and you may be put on trial and have your pay cut. That is anxiety. He who receives a salary lives a life of worry. Then he is enslaved by his boss, who pays him. The implementation of the resolutions of the Basic People's Conferences should be directed toward production.

In other words, these are previous resolutions which we are now becoming aware of. Freedom from fear, from bad expectations for your future and for that of your family. You must do away with salaries. How? By turning to production. No one in the Jamahiriyah should receive a salary, or only a few, and even they should be looked upon in a certain way. Many jobs should be eliminated: Clerks to issue tickets, others to record, and still others to type. We can eliminate many things. However, this does not mean we should do away with all employees and throw them out into the streets. No, no. Your salary cannot be cut off without a determination that you have another free income, not your salary, to provide for your family. It has to be confirmed that you

have a workshop, farm, sheep, or some other source of income. Obviously, we cannot dispense with certain people—doctors, teachers, and technical specialists.

However, there are many jobs we can eliminate, thousands and thousands of posts can be dispensed with in 1988, and those involved shifted to production. You will be free, and, clearly, your lives will be happier and your income will be greater. Caring for five cows is better than any job. So is rearing 100 sheep. Running a farm, even one of 5 hectares, is better than any job. And if you have sons and daughters that you employ, with one working and another (?supervising), you will see how the income grows if you bring them together on a farm and pool their efforts. If you employ your son, your daughter, and your brother, and if you bring them all together and run a farm and work in agriculture, we will see how high your income goes. You will say we were wrong to compete for jobs and receive salaries.

You will find the family scattered and [word indistinct] you go there, you go there, you go there, even if one of them has a farm [words indistinct]. Money does not come from jobs, it comes from farms. In fact, those with jobs should leave them and go to work on a farm, or in a workshop, a carpenter's workshop employing one or more people. Let them leave their jobs and work in a workshop, as though we were running five workshops. [Unidentified speaker in the audience says: "Excuse me, but according to the third universal theory, he who exploits the land through his own labor and the [word indistinct] and sons, lives from it. Is that correct?"] Yes. [Speaker continues: "Why does the General People's Committee for Civil Service issue resolutions without [words indistinct]? The third universal theory says: Serve the land by your effort."] You mean that the people's committee has allowed farmers to employ foreign workers, don't you? [Speaker makes indistinct reply]

You're right, you're right. Well, that's your problem. Very well, do without the foreign labor force. I am generally satisfied, very satisfied with way the people's congresses are exercising their authority. It is improving day after day and year after year. The struggle continues. [chanting]

Yunis Jabir Receives Soviet Military Delegation

LD062110 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, met today with Lieutenant General Kondakov, chief of the 10th Directorate of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, and the members of his delegation.

Morocco

King Receives Senegalese, Mauritanian Ministers

LD062045 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him success, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed received at the Royal Palace in Ifrane at noon today [Senegalese Foreign Minister] Ibrahima Fall, who was accompanied by Boubacar Diop, that country's ambassador to Morocco.

During this meeting, the head of Senegalese diplomacy conveyed to His Majesty the King a special message from President Abdou Diouf.

His Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed, then received Mauritanian Foreign Minister Lemine Ould N'Diayane, who was accompanied by Mahfoud Ould Lemrabott, that country's ambassador to Rabat.

The two royal meetings were attended by Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali; Minister of Interior and Information Ahmed Driss Basri; and Ahmed Reda Guedira, adviser to His Majesty the King.

UK's Hurd Arrives, Met by Interior Minister

LD061936 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The British home secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, arrived a short time ago at Mohamed V Airport on an official visit to our country.

He was welcomed at Mohamed V Airport by Mr Driss Basri, the minister of interior and information, and the British ambassador to Rabat.

Sudan

'Outlaws' Confronted in Kapoeta, Al-Jummayzah

JN071135 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jan (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have confronted and foiled an attempt by a group of outlaws to besiege the town of Kapoeta in the Equatoria Region and to infiltrate neighboring towns and villages. This was reported here today by the independent daily AL-ITTIHAD.

Quoting a military source in the Army General Command, the paper added that the rebels then plundered the region causing panic among the citizens. However, the Armed Forces continued their successful operations and maintained security and stability.

The paper also quoted the source as saying that the Armed Forces had confronted another large group of outlaws and forced them to flee in the direction of the eastern border. The Armed Forces additionally destroyed a concentration of outlaws in the (Manita) region, killing six of them.

The Armed Forces also clashed with another group of outlaws in the village of Al-Jummayzah and the city of Bor, capital of Jonglei, inflicting heavy losses among the outlaws and seizing military hardware. The remainder of the outlaws fled.

SPLA Radio Refutes U.S. State Department Claims

EA071105 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Station Commentary: "U.S.-Khartoum-SPLM/SPLA Relations"]

[Excerpts] We have on several occasions made it clear that we have no quarrel with any country, even with those who morally and materially support our adversaries. Our No 1 enemy is the discriminatory system of rule practiced by the Al-Mahdi and the Mirghani families and their cronies in the Armed Forces. That makes our problem an internal one.

In a statement issued by the U.S. State Department, there are two sentences that require our comment. They are in brackets: The recent SPLA attack at Kurmuk on the Ethiopian border adds a new dimension to our concern; and, Ethiopian support was clearly needed for the attack to take place and continued to be required for the SPLA to sustain itself in Kurmuk.

First, the timing of the release of the statement is important. Omdurman broadcast the statement at a time when the government troops were moving towards Kurmuk. It is to be recalled that about 2 weeks ago, an American general responsible for the Middle East paid a visit to Khartoum. Although Khartoum's minister of state for defense denied that the visit had anything to do with the situation in Kurmuk, one is tempted to conclude that the American general came to advise the already demoralized Armed Forces of Khartoum on the methods of recapturing Kurmuk.

We do not need Ethiopian support for attacks to take place anywhere. If the crime of Ethiopia consists of bordering on Kurmuk, how does the U.S. Administration explain the capture and occupation of Yirol, a district headquarters like Kurmuk only hundreds of miles away from the Ethiopian border, by the SPLA 2 years ago and which is still under our control?

The U.S. Government has the right to poke its nose into the affairs of any country it chooses, since it has arrogated to itself the role of a world policeman; but, wherever it has taken sides, even against a tiny country or a guerrilla movement, it always comes out a loser, militarily and morally. Vietnam provides proof of this statement.

The American policymakers are good at toppling governments by proxy and at planning and implementing the assassination of leaders they love to hate. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government is seeing a mote in the eyes of others when it has a beam in its own eye. Right now the administration is destabilizing some small and independent states in Central America.

It tried to openly interfere in the Sudan during the last days of Numayri's rule. Two senior American politicians visited Khartoum with the intention of substituting Numayri's deputy, 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, for his boss. Our alert patriots foiled this foreign plot. It seems the old days of McCarthyism when Joe McCarthy mesmerized the public to see a red under every bed are back again.

It is the view of the American policymakers that any national liberation movement dedicated to the welfare of the people is an agent of communism. The case of the SPLM-SPLA can best be understood in its questioning of a system of rule in the Sudan which has utterly neglected the bulk of the Sudanese people. This majority wants its equal share of power in the central government with the few who rule the country in the name of the 39% of people of Arab descent and the development of their socially and economically backward regions.

Since it seems that the American experts on the Sudan lack a full knowledge of things, their information nearly always comes from the very oppressors of the people from the backward areas. We advise these experts to acquire and read the 1956 population census of the Sudan and all copies of "Keatings Archives" of (?world) weekly records of events in order to find out the root causes of our war, which does not need foreign bidding to begin. We can be bullied by the friends of our enemies, but as guerrillas we must achieve victory or die in the interests of posterity.

Tunisia

UK's Hurd Departs; Joint Statement Issued

LD070426 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd left Tunis this afternoon at the end of a 4-day official visit to our country. A joint statement was released highlighting the talks the British home secretary held with Tunisian officials, foremost of whom were the president, prime minister, and his Tunisian counterpart, Habib Ammar.

The statement also included the British Government's expression of satisfaction at the change that has taken place in Tunisia, as well as the congratulations of the British queen and the prime minister on this occasion.

During the talks, Tunisian-British cooperation was reviewed and the two sides discussed ways of reinforcing and intensifying it to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples. The two sides also expressed their conviction that the cooperation program between the two Interior Ministries will enhance these relations.

The two Interior Ministries have agreed on the following:

To exchange information and experience;

To provide grants for training Tunisian cadres in Britain;

To examine the possibility of giving assistance in the field of technical equipment and installations;

To draw up programs for twinning municipalities in the two countries;

To examine the possibility of signing consular agreements and establishing judicial cooperation to organize and protect the movement of citizens from the two countries, both in Britain and in Tunisia, within the framework of the laws in force in the two countries; and

To coordinate efforts to combat terrorism and the smuggling of prohibited goods, especially drugs.

Abdallah Discusses Press Law Revision
LD061511 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah held a news conference this morning at which he reviewed the principles and ideas concerning the revision of the press law.

The information minister put the proposals concerning this matter within a political framework that shows the president's commitment to creating a suitable atmosphere and objective conditions for establishing a free and developed media, that reflect honestly and comprehensively the aspirations of the citizens, and that brings Tunisians out of the age of fictitious unanimity and into the age of national reconciliation.

The changes to be introduced into the press law will focus on the requirements for publishing newspapers and the measures for deterrent and legal custody, in addition to a number of measures that will be adopted to consolidate the benefit of the press activities in the country.

Mr Abdelwahab Abdallah pointed out that the proposal on the publication of newspapers is such that the administration should enable the person requesting a license, if he is a party, union, or recognized society, to commence publication within 3 days; if he is an individual, publication can commence within 2 months, at most.

In order to raise the standard of Tunisian journalism, press cards will in the future be given to those who have academic qualifications or to those who have recognized experience.

Concerning the suspension of newspapers, he pointed out that justice will make the decision on this, and that in the future the administration will never be able to suspend a newspaper. However, it may stop only one issue from reporting on actual events.

Mr Abdelwahab Abdallah pointed out that journalists definitely need a charter of honor, the implementation of which will be monitored by an organization that should assume the role of leadership for the journalists. He recalled the decisions adopted by the president concerning the National Information Council, reaching the sources of news, and introducing publicity to radio and television. He also noted the resolutions adopted last Wednesday to help the press sector in its development.

Bahrain

Secretary Carlucci Continues Official Visit

Holds Talks With Leaders

JN061417 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Official talks began here today between the Bahraini side led by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister, and the U.S. side led by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci. During the talks, which were attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khaifah, Bahraini Defense Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, and the two countries ambassadors, the two sides discussed bilateral realtions and issues of common interest.

The U.S. official arrived in Manama from Kuwait earlier today within a tour during which he will also visit Saudi Arabia. This is Carlucci's first visit to the Middle East since he became the defense secretary and Secretary Caspar Weinberger's successor.

Conveys Reagan Letter to Amir

JN061853 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, has received a letter from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on bilateral relations. U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci delivered the message to his highness the amir when Shaykh 'Isa received him here this evening. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and acting prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; and Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Khalifah, Bahraini Defense Force chief of staff.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, current developments in the region, and issues of mutual interest.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN071108 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, 7 Jan (WAKH)—U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci left Manama this morning following a 2-day visit to Bahrain. His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and acting prime minister, led those who saw off the U.S. defense secretary. He was also seen off by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahraini Defense Force; Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi, Bahraini ambassador to the United States; and Sam Zakhem, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

During the visit, Carlucci held talks with his highness the Bahraini heir apparent on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

Kuwait

Reportage on Visit of Syrian Vice President

Received by Amir

LD061352 Kuwait KUNA in English 0954 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—The amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir Al-Ahmad al-Sabah Wednesday received Syrian Vice-President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who conveyed to the amir a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Conveys Al-Asad Message

JN061500 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, received Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam this afternoon. Khaddam conveyed a message to the amir from President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs in Kuwait.

Khaddam then held a round of talks with Kuwaiti Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah. The foreign ministers of the two sisterly countries and the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait participated in the talks.

Ends Visit, Departs

LD061356 Kuwait KUNA in English 1256 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam left here Wednesday at the end of a brief visit to Kuwait. Khaddam was seen off at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives Fahd Reply on Palestinian Events

LD031350 Kuwait KUNA in English 1250 GMT 3 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 3 (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Sunday received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi

Arabia dealing with developments of the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli authorities in occupied Palestine, an official source said.

The royal Saudi message was in reply to a letter from his highness the amir of Kuwait who had called on leaders of Islamic nations to take appropriate action to curb Israel's savage violence against Arabs of the occupied areas.

King Fahd praised the amir's initiative and said in his reply message that he personally made international contacts on the subject.

The Saudi monarch stressed that the deteriorating situation in the occupied areas makes it imperative for the United Nations and the Security Council to intervene for an overall settlement of the Palestinian question.

The world body should no longer restrict its actions on the matter to mere statements of condemnation but rather take necessary steps to expedite the convening of an international conference on Middle East peace, the monarch said.

He added that the proposed conference should ensure the return of Jerusalem and other Israeli-occupied territories to Arab sovereignty and that the Palestinian people—led by the Palestine Liberation Organization—restore their legitimate rights including self-determination.

He said he has full confidence that his highness the amir of Kuwait will save no effort for the attainment of the desired results.

Foreign Minister Receives USSR's Brutents

LD061922 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir met at the Foreign Ministry this evening with Karen Brutents, deputy chairman of the International Relations Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, who is visiting the country. The meeting was attended by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Sulayman al-Majid al-Shahin, the foreign under secretary; Abdallah Sa'ud al-Abd al-Razzaq, the director of the office of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; and the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

KUNA reported that the meeting discussed developments in the Arab Gulf and the importance of securing the freedom of international navigation in its waters, in addition to the Iraq-Iran war and the means of implementing Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate cease-fire. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that Brutents acquainted Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad with the results of the summit conference between President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev which was held recently in Washington, especially in relation to the reduction and removal of strategic weapons by both countries.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed to Brutents Kuwaiti satisfaction with this important step, which will contribute to the consolidation of world peace and security and to reducing the horror factor that threatens the world as a result of the stockpiling of these weapons.

Also, both sides discussed the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the role and efforts of the United Nations to find a speedy and just end to it. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad confirmed the importance of the cooperation of the Security Council members in implementing Resolution 598, which includes a comprehensive solution that enjoys the support of the international community, to achieve security and stability for this vital region of the world.

Brutents praised his meetings with his highness the amir and Kuwait for the interest he found during his visit in the mission of the delegation and said that his mission also included acquainting friends in Kuwait with the Soviet point of view, including the influence of the Soviet-U.S. summit on events in the world and the other international issues.

Brutents Meets Other Officials

LD071150 Kuwait KUNA in English 1119 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 7 (KUNA)—Deputy Chief of the International Relations Bureau of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee Karen Brutents had talks here Thursday with Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman al-Majid al-Shahin.

The meeting touched on bilateral relations and means of boosting them in all fields.

The meeting was attended by director of the Political Department 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bagan, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait and other Foreign Ministry officials.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives on Visit

LD061920 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—A U.S. congressional delegation arrived in Kuwait Wednesday night for a short visit in part of an Arab tour.

The team which comprises Republican Senators Ted Stevens, Warren Rudman and Alfonse D'Amato will be meeting Thursday with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa.

The three senators who met in Manama Tuesday with the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah are due to leave later Thursday possibly to Cairo.

Commentary Hails U.S. Support for UN Resolution
LD062232 Kuwait KUNA in English 1806 GMT 6 Jan 88

["Commentary"—KUNA headline]

[Text] United Nations, Jan 6 (KUNA)—United States support Tuesday night for a Security Council resolution aimed at Israel is likely to enhance the prestige of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), observers here say.

Arab delegates were delighted with the U.S. decision to join with the rest of the Council in adopting a resolution calling on Israel to drop plans to deport nine Palestinians from the occupied territories.

It was the second time in two weeks that Washington has criticised Israel in the Council for its handling of the Palestinian uprising.

The U.S. delegation abstained in a December 22 vote on a resolution that deplored the excessive use of force against demonstrators in the West Bank and Gaza. The U.S. abstention, permitting the resolution to pass, was widely seen as criticism of Israel.

"The U.S. action in the Council indicates that Washington can no longer ignore the Palestinians' legitimate struggle inside the occupied territories," one Palestinian diplomat said.

He predicted that Israel's renewed setback in the Council would lead to further concessions by the United States and eventually Israel.

Although the Arab and nonaligned groups drafted the resolution, it was the PLO which emphasised the deportation issue.

Western diplomats and observers agree that the victory in the Council would enhance Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's prestige in the occupied territories and elsewhere in the world.

The United States has for decades taken the position that the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 applies to the Israeli occupation, something all Israeli governments have disputed.

In 1980, the Council adopted a resolution calling on Israel to rescind a decision to expel the mayors of Hebron and Halhoul and the shari'a judge of Hebron.

The Council also urged Israel to facilitate the immediate return of the expelled Palestinian leaders.

The United States, which has the power of veto along with four other permanent members—Britain, France, China and the USSR—abstained in that resolution, allowing it to be adopted. The other 14 members voted in favour.

The last time the U.S. backed a resolution aimed at Israel was in 1981, when the Council declared Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights as null and void.

UK Stance on Palestinian 'Uprising' Commended
LD062345 Kuwait KUNA in English 1945 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 6 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi Wednesday commended the attitude of Britain towards the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as "brave" hoping the other world nations especially the European countries would follow suit.

The world has begun to realise the real meaning of the uprising which, he said, has come about as a result of inhuman practices of the Israeli occupation authorities against the unarmed civilians.

Al-'Usaymi wished the world nations, especially the European states, would follow the British example voiced by the Minister of State at the Foreign Office David Mellor during his visit to the Zionist entity that ended today, which, Al-'Usaymi said, was "brave and clear."

PDRY

Foreign Minister Leaves on Visit to Ethiopia
EA061741 Aden ANA in Arabic 1402 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Aden, 6 Jan (ANA)—Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, left Aden this morning for the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE], carrying a letter from Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, general secretary of the YSP Central Committee, to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and president of the PDRE, on relations between the two friendly countries and ways of developing them.

Comrade al-Dali told ANA that the purpose of the visit is consultation and coordination between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions on issues that concern the two countries. It is also intended to entrench and promote cooperation between the two countries in different fields. He was seen off by Comrade Shai Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister.

Minister Receives Outgoing Iranian Ambassador

LD061507 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Outgoing Iranian Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) Hasan Aminian met with PDRY Minister of Industries and Commerce 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Uthman in Aden Wednesday morning.

In the meeting, Muhammad 'Uthman described his country's ties with the Islamic Republic as "strategic" and said Aden is willing to cooperate with Tehran in various fields. 'Uthman commenting on the Iraqi-imposed war, said the war has actually been imposed on Iran by the U.S. and expressed hope it would end in Iranian victory.

The two also underlined the need for further expansion of Tehran-Aden ties.

Ex-President Expresses 'Dismay' Over Executions

JN031822 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Sanaa—Former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad addressed the Yemeni people yesterday on the new year. He expressed his dismay over the bloody way the PDRY Government received the new year by executing five of his supporters. He said killing does not solve problems but will create great wounds which will lead to the gravest results.

In another development, the YSP Central Committee, the legitimate leadership, which supports 'Ali Nasir, has issued a lengthy statement denouncing the executions.

Qatar

Syria's Kaddam, Al-Shar' Arrive in Doha

JN061919 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1912 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Doha, 6 Jan (WAKH)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Doha this evening on a visit to Qatar as part of a tour of GCC countries.

During the visit, the Syrian vice president is expected to hold talks with Qatari officials on the current developments in the Gulf region and the current Arab situation.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Says Ties With PDRY Intact

PM051653 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Al-Iryani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Have No Knowledge of the Death Sentence Being Carried Out; Our Relations With Aden Are Good"]

[Excerpt] London—The YAR has announced that the carrying out in Aden of the death sentences on five followers of the former PDRY president will not affect relations and the issues being discussed by the two Yemens. Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani said: "Relations between Aden and Sanaa are the best one could hope for; there is nothing to spoil them."

The YAR foreign minister, who was speaking over the telephone to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his home, was asked how true the reports were that death sentences have been carried out in Aden and to what extent this will affect relations between the two countries. He said: "Everything takes its course. There is no need to mix issues between the two countries, and there is nothing yet to confirm for us in Sanaa that these sentences have been carried out on the imprisoned followers of former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad."

Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani acknowledged the occurrence of some incidents on the border between the two Yemens, but he said: "They are old incidents which go back over 3 months. Speaking about them is just stirring up old wounds. These passing incidents should not be blown out of proportion."

The Yemeni foreign minister confirmed that the efforts being made by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni Government to achieve reconciliation between the two conflicting sides in Aden will continue, and said: "Hopes of getting the sentences commuted are still high."

Concerning President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's recent tour of the UAE, Pakistan, and China, Dr al-Iryani said: "It was successful and focused on discussing common issues and furthering the cooperation that exists between these states."

The Yemeni minister denied that the efforts made by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to settle the dispute between the conflicting sides in Aden were discussed, saying: "Nothing was discussed in this regard, at least not at the meetings in which I took part and attended personally."

Nevertheless, informed sources in Aden have mentioned that the death sentences were carried out in Al-Mansurah prison, which belongs to the Interior Ministry, last Tuesday, after the condemned men were transferred from "Fath" prison, which belongs to the State Security Ministry, following the approval of the sentences by the Presidium. [passage omitted]

President Husayn Speaks on Army Anniversary
JN061048 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0803 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 67th anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi Army—place not given; live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brave men of the valiant Armed Forces, pride of Iraq, and shield of the nation, I extend to you, my beloved ones, the greeting of love and pride on the 67th anniversary of your auspicious day—the day of the founding of Iraq's great Army, the pride of the nation and the defender of its principles and security. I greet you and also convey to you the greetings of Iraq's women, young men and women, and elderly. I also convey to you the thanks of Iraq's children for the security and protection you have given them.

Moreover, I convey to you the greetings of your nation's devout sons, who are also celebrating your day and recalling your glories and heroisms while you are stationed in your positions all along the battlefront against the greedy, evil forces, protecting your homeland from harm, carrying out acts of heroism, writing with blood and sacrifices the history of new Iraq, and denying all false claims made by the enemies against the Arab nation to divert it from its objectives and national and humanitarian role. The celebration of your day has a deep meaning, now illustrated and affirmed by your presence on the battlefield performing the most noble mission of defending Iraq and the values of chivalry and protecting our principles from the filth of aggression and evil.

Brothers in the Armed Forces, sons of our great people, on this day every year when we celebrate this glorious day and recall with living examples the great role played by our valiant Army, we also pause to review important events and to define our duties and tasks in various main fields. Last year our valiant Armed Forces fought some of the most important battles in our defensive war against Iranian aggression. They were, in fact, the greatest battles ever fought. On these days in 1987 the enemy was crushed in the Great Day battle. At that time the enemy had prepared itself for its biggest military offensive in the history of the war. It massed more than 300,000 of its scoundrels, supported by plans and supplies.

This took 1 year of preparation with the support of Zionist circles and other circles hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation. The objective of that offensive was to occupy Basra, the gem of all cities, and to establish a puppet state there which the enemy could use to continue the war and aggression and to impose hegemony on the Arabian Gulf as a first step in its evil plans.

The unprecedented battles that raged for months confounded observers who differed in their views and estimates. Some were realistic and others were mythical, in view of the horrific fighting witnessed and the great manifestations of bravery and sacrifice displayed by our men. In fact, observers could not find the words to describe this bravery and these sacrifices other than to say that what happened was like some kind of miracle which God gave to Iraq to keep it lofty, healthy, and strong. The Iraqis were as strong and solid as mountains in these battles. They turned Basra's borders into a large cemetery for the invaders. Hell was let loose. Flames engulfed and swallowed the bodies of the scoundrels. They and those who have driven them to this hell are accused at every sunrise and sunset until doomsday.

At the same time, the blessed and sweet-smelling paradise embraced our good martyrs who have fulfilled their responsibility and given their lives in the defense of the Iraqi flag and the honor of the Arab nation, which will remain entrusted to trustworthy men who carry on the responsibility after them, declaring an oath of honor to the homeland and nation that they will protect the trust given to them and safeguard Iraq and the principles of the Arab nation.

The great epics on the Great Day, the Great Harvest, and the Blessed Birthday have resulted in a clear victory. It was proven once again that Iraq, while it calls for a just and strong peace, is capable of crushing the aggressor and safeguarding principles. Instead of learning the lessons of those great battles and acceding to peace—particularly since the international community declared through the Security Council their decisive view in Resolution 598—and instead of taking that correct path, the evil miscreants ruling in Tehran reverted to making threats of a new aggression.

On this occasion I would like to pause at this juncture and say: In previous years I addressed the Iranian peoples several times in the name of the Iraqi people, giving them explanations and advice. I said to them that by insisting on war and aggression their rulers are sending them to their death and are bringing them more losses and destruction. I said to them there is no chance that those rulers will be able to achieve their black dreams. Today I say once again to the rulers of Iran and its peoples, and also in the name of the glorious Iraqis: Regardless of the ambitions and aggressive aims of the patrons of evil, the vultures of death will never be able to achieve their aims.

The war is in the middle of its 8th year. During the war the men have been tested and the weapons and all of the factors of the war have been tried. Will those who failed in 7 years of fighting be able to achieve their dreams in a new adventure? Our advice to them in past years remains in the record of history, a glorious record for Iraq and the Arab nation. Those with empty heads did not heed such advice, but responded to them with the attitude of fools who think forbearance to be weakness and wisdom to be hesitation. I do not now expect those evil people to do anything other than persist in their transgression and hatred.

Therefore I say to them on behalf of all Iraqis: The proud Iraqis who crushed your adventures and gave you bitter experiences in the past 7 years will crush the aggression for which you are preparing and will inflict upon you a bitter defeat you have not previously experienced, with the help of Almighty God. Today, praise be to God, we are stronger, more highly prepared, and better experienced than at any time in the history of this war. Our Army today is greater in numbers than in the past. It is bigger than the hordes of the scoundrels and the backward who were led to death like beasts to the slaughterhouse. Our Army is better trained than at any time in the past.

This army has gained experience and technology which enabled it to face any situation and to smash any aggression, regardless of the number of those participating in that aggression or the diversification of its methods and means. This is not an allegation or mere boasting. It is a firm fact recognized by the entire world. If the criminal scoundrels want to take a chance once again they will have more shame and weakness and will collapse as a result of this adventure, thanks to God's help, the lofty Iraqis' will, and the honest Arabs' support.

The talk about the aggression for which the Tehran rulers are now preparing and about the military situation in general is strongly linked in one way or another to what is taking place in the political field. In July 1987 the UN Security Council issued a resolution known as No 598. This resolution includes the elements of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict between Iraq and Iran. Iraq welcomed the resolution and expressed its sincere readiness to implement it on the basis of Iraq's firm, principled stand on the conflict.

Iraq does not want this conflict, which was imposed by Tehran's expansionist, aggressive rulers, who dream of establishing empires. War was imposed on us. However, we fought this war as honest men to defend our homeland, sovereignty, and dignity. Since the beginning of the conflict, we have accepted the auspices of the Security Council over the conflict. We accepted the first Security Council resolution issued on 28 September 1980 and we accepted the auspices of the international community and its institutions in which we participate because we are part of this civilized world.

We hope cordial relations will prevail among the peoples in this world on the basis of equality and mutual respect for sovereignty and that rules of international law will govern this world. For these principled reasons, we accepted the Security Council resolution. If the Tehran juggler rulers, who are alien to this world's noble values, and some quarters here and there believe we accepted the resolution for other reasons, they are deluding themselves.

In my message to the Iranian rulers on 2 August 1986, I defined five principles for a comprehensive settlement to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. I said Iraq cannot accept any settlement that does not contain these principles. Security Council Resolution No 598 contains these principles in addition to other issues. We welcomed the resolution and worked to implement it with all responsibility and honesty. However, the Iranian regime, which rejected peace, insisted on war throughout the past 7 years, and disregarded the resolutions and calls of the international organizations, did not accept the Security Council resolution in practice. That regime, in coordination with the Zionist quarters and their overt and covert agents and with their help, practiced deception and maneuvers and tampered with the resolution, its meaning, and objectives.

In the past months we responded to the Security Council and to the UN secretary general. We herad views and proposals and we discussed issues proceeding from our respect for the representative organizations of the international community and from our profound sense of responsibility toward the issue of peace. If some party has misunderstood our conduct I must warn them not to misunderstand our responsible, wise stand. When Iraq acts responsibly let no one think Iraq can relinquish its principled stands and basic rights. Iraq accepted Resolution 598 because it aims to end the fighting, bring about unconditional withdrawal to internationally-recognized borders, have an exchange of prisoners, achieve permanent peace, and safeguard security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region. Iraq will not accept any proposal or plan that does not lead to the realization of these objectives.

When we say that the resolution must be implemented in accordance with the sequence of its operative clauses—and that is in harmony with the logic of the resolution itself—that is because we are anxious to have a sound implementation of the resolution that leads to sound results. Iraq will not accede to any tampering with the resolution, whether with regard to sequence, contents, or results. If the rulers of Tehran think they can blackmail us to accept making concessions through maneuvers and ploys suggested to them by suspect quarters, or by threatening their coming aggression, then they are deluding themselves.

Capable, steadfast, and responsible Iraq will not relinquish its principled stands and its clear and legitimate rights whatever the circumstances. The permanent member states of the Security Council know very well that we defined such a stand prior to the adoption of Resolution 598. We explained it in detail last year in unambiguous documents and contacts when the forces of the Iranian regime were threatening to occupy Basra. We have clearly informed those states Iraq will not accept any plan that does not include the basic principles we declared on 2 August 1986.

Today, we reaffirm this stand and we warn those who try to tamper with various aspects of the Security Council resolution and who seek to appease the Iranian regime that is outside the law and which resorts to extortion,

intimidation, and blackmail. I warn them that the wisdom and sense of responsibility which Iraq expressed and confirmed do not mean Iraq will appease anyone or accept any manipulation. We very strongly insist on our principled stand and legitimate rights. We shall continue our heoric fighting until the Iranian regime submits to the will of justice, relinquishes its evil illusions, and accedes to a just peace and to the norms of relations among states in the modern age.

Appeasement of the Iranian regime and response to its maneuvers and lies by some people in past months have encouraged that regime to persist in such methods. This did not serve the cause of peace but indeed contributed to prolonging the war and to increasing Iranian threats to security and stability in the region. It is high time for the Security Council, the UN Secretariat, and for the states concerned to consider without hesitation imposing sanctions on that aberrant and aggressor regime that is outside the UN Charter and international law. Any other conduct toward that regime will not serve the cause of peace and will not lead to strengthening the prestige of the United Nations. Indeed, appeasing Iran and responding to the maneuvering of its leaders can be construed only as entailing suspect motives and a lack of seriousness in dealing with the resolutions of the international organization.

O great people, in this new year we are faced with tasks on the national level which we should assume seriously and efficiently. The Iraqi economy has passed a difficult test under the continuous aggression against our country and what accompanied it, in addition to fluctuations in the world economy and the drop in oil prices, which reduced our hard currency revenues. Because of the solid base laid down by the revolution throughout many years of persistent and active work, the dynamics and determination to continuously develop, which our revolutionary society enjoys, and the openness of the doctrine of our party and revolution, rejecting a stalemate and introversion, the Iraqi economy was able to remain steadfast in this test.

We were able to continue the implementation of the development plan in a manner which drew the admiration of the entire world. We also preserved a standard of living for the people. This is considered a large achievement in light of current regional and international circumstances, particularly if this is compared with the situation in neighborly Arab countries that did not face the challenges we faced and that did not make the sacrifices we offered.

During the past year we found in 18 years of experience in development, construction, administration, and production that we need rejuvenating methods, structures, and measures. We need this to tackle the negativeness which was accumulated throughout experience, to end slovenliness in the central administration and the socialist mode of the economy, and to give the Iraqi economy broader roads to increase production, improve its quality, and free it from narrow bureaucratic chains. We also need it so Iraqi society will make better investments than those achieved during the revolution era and so Iraq's potential will be free and creative. We adopted new measures and methods and made changes in administrative structures to tackle this negativeness and achieve the development and progress sought.

During the past few months, as a result of following this course which enjoyed the leadership's consenus and the people's support, important achievements were attained in the industrial and agricultural fields as well as in the services sector. The Iraqi economy witnessed new dynamics. These achievements enabled us to confront the challenges imposed by the aggression and the fluctuations in the world economy, which was exposed to anxiety and crises during the past year. We are called upon, brothers, to go ahead with determination and awakening in this new course. We are called upon to continue the plan to increase production, to improve its quality, and to exploit Iraqi human resources in the best way to lessen our reliance on importation and to expand the national market which fulfills most of our needs.

The war production sector made important achievements in addition to those which I have mentioned on previous occasions. This sector has become one of the most important in the field of national production. This sector made available a very large part of our Armed Forces' needs for ammunition and for important types of weapons and equipment. Thus, the state has saved large amounts of hard currency. This is in addition to the importance of this in the qualitative development of the Armed Forces and in providing their needs under circumstances much better than previous ones.

The dynamism that characterized that sector has had a positive effect—through interaction and coordination in certain cases—upon the civilian production sectors, both industrial and agricultural. To all those working in that sector, I express my appreciation, admiration, and hope for proceeding ahead on that creative path. I also salute all the workers in the various production sectors. I urge them to continue their efforts, perseverance, and activity and to raise the level of precision and seriousness so the national economy will achieve the aims to which we aspire, so we can provide the country with a solid national economic base that will be a strong support in our national struggle against the enemy, who aims to harm our country and the lives of our people, and so we can achieve victory over him, God willing.

O proud Iraqis! O sons of the glorious Arab nation. The past year was an important year in Arab life. During that year the dangers threatening Arab national security intensified. Such threats did not stop at Iraq alone with the continued Iranian aggression against it, but extended in the form of direct threats to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the other Arabian Gulf countries. In the past year,

the racist rancor and aggressive and expansionist intentions that move the Iranian regime became unambiguously clear. Tangible facts made it clear that the threats against one country or another cannot be confined to that country. The threats from various sources to which the Arab countries were subjected in the past years had a common character. The forces that stood behind those threats were the same or allied, even if they appeared in part of their policy to be in conflict and contradictory.

A sense of the unity of pan-Arab security and of the need to confront the threats to Arab national security with a pan-Arab policy was strengthened during the past year among the Arab masses, whose national awakening and awareness deepened. Such a sense also increased by a tangible proportion among Arab officials. These positive factors have helped in bringing to fruition the efforts to covene an Arab summit following a hiatus of several years. The Amman summit was held and was truly successful. It constituted a new starting point for joint Arab action. The results and resolutions of the Amman summit confirmed the depth and soundness of the pan-Arab policy.

Iraq was among the first to advocate a policy that emphasizes the need to seriously adhere to Arab pacts and commitments and the need to strengthen ties of joint Arab action in all fields. After many years in which the factors of the disintegration and indeed the violation of these bases appeared, the pan-Arab policy once again reverted to affirming its strength, credibility, and indispensibility for Arab life.

The Arab states are called upon to adhere to the spirit of the Amman summit and to turn this summit's results and resolutions into a tangible reality which is strengthened by time. We warn of the danger of those trends which seek to restore the atmospheres and methods that preceded the summit. Those atmospheres and methods did not do any good. On the contrary, they led to the weakness from which the Arab nation has suffered. They also encouraged the enemies and the greedy to slight and attack the nation.

We still see and hear statements and behavior that stem from weakness, shortsightedness, selfishness, and other factors which call for compromises with the enemy, as though they still need further proof of the evil intentions of the Iranian regime. Those who indulge in such behavior are merely deceiving themselves and their peoples and are not making any serious contribution to Arab security.

While we are speaking about the Arab nation's affairs, it behooves us to express our admiration for and pride in the general, brave, popular uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territory. This uprising is gaining historic characteristics. It comes 20 years after the 1967 aggression and the policies of terrorism and annexation to confirm the Palestinian Arab people's vitality and deep faith in their right to life and self-determination. We affirm our support for our brother strugglers in the occupied territory. We also affirm our support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the living, steadfast Palestinian Arab people. We call upon the world to draw correct conclusions from this phenomenon and the heroic stands of the steadfast, struggler Palestinian people.

The most important lessons of this uprising are that those forces which deny people's rights and think that the methods of suppression, terrorism, and deception can stop the evolution of history are grossly deluded. This delusion is shared by the Zionists and the Tehran rulers who are allied against our nation, covet its land, and seek to establish false empires based on rancor, evil, and expansion and that stem from superstitions and myths. Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the Iranian aggression, the Palestinian Arab people's steadfastness in the face of the long Zionist occupation, and the spirit expressed by the Amman summit and the various pan-Arab political, cultural, and mass activities are healthy manifestations in Arab life which herald a new horizon on which the pan-Arab flag will flutter and pan-Arab commitment will strengthen.

O outstanding men fighting on the battlefronts! O pride of the Euphrates, O defenders of the homeland, O pride of the nation of divine messages, heroism, and sacrifices! O men of the great Army of Iraq in all the services of its Armed Forces, wherever you may be in positions of strength and glory and in the arena of battle all along Iraq's impregnable border, I extend to you a greeting of glory and victory. Your deeds were a symbol of true heroism and rare chivalry. Your efforts at difficult times were an expression of the loftiest characteristics and forms of manhood. Your endurance was an example of sacrifice for the homeland and principles. Your valor was of a kind in which the Arabs take pride. May God take care of you, O men, and may He grant you His blessings to crown your efforts with decisive victory and crown your people with glory.

While I have confidence in you and in your vigilance, I ask you to be more alert so you can deprive your scoundrel enemies of the element of surprise. I urge you all to persevere and to continue your efforts and to achieve greater skill, capability, and precision in carrying out your duties and tasks. I and all Iraqis urge you to deal further severe punishing blows to your vile enemy as a just retribution for his intransigence, obduracy, recklessness, and disregard for human values and for the will of the international community.

O sons of the Euphrates! O glorious Iraqis! Our steadfastness and victory and the gains and positive results we achieved throughout the years of the war were all a fruit of your patience, sacrifices, struggle, efforts, and indefatigable work and the factors of victory and steadfastness you provided. That is what your nation and homeland expect of you. That is the characteristic of the Iraqi

people, the heir of civilization and the inheritor of the glories of Arabism, a people who deserve an honorable life and glory. Today, you will reap the result of the good efforts and sacrifices you sowed and your enemies will reap defeat. You will rise to higher levels of glory and your evil enemy will fall lower into the abyss. Glory to you, O Iraqis, for your contributions and sacrifices, for by God you deserve all honor and glory.

As for you, O glorious Iraqi women, you deserve to be in the forefront of every position and you will occupy a place of honor on every occasion. No wonder, for your endurance is unparalleled among women and your contributions and sacrifices are endless. Your efforts and your resilience increased the faith of the brave men on the days of difficult combat. Your faith in God and the homeland and in the homeland's sancitities and principles will continue to be the combatants' ammunition and supply in confronting adversities. Your encouragement for the heroic fighters will continue to be a source of enthusiasm and an endless fountain of courage and daring in the battles for sovereignty and dignity.

When we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of our valiant Army and remember its heroic feats, your glories, O good martyrs, for the homeland and for its principles will be foremost among the factors for victory and steadfastness that we remember. You raised the name of Iraq high and we take pride in its strength and impregnability, when you consolidated the values of sacrifice, and you raised high the principles of loyalty to the people and the homeland. When we remember you we show part of our gratitude for your bountiful contribution and your unrivaled achievements.

You have planted on every hill, valley, and plain in Iraq testimonies for future generations of pride and loftiness and you have raised a banner of pride and dignity in the skies of Iraq. You are the symbols of Iraq's glory, the honor of its men, the pride of its sons, and an example for them to follow. Your contributions inspire them in their steadfastness, enabling them to continue the march of construction and confrontation of aggression until they achieve decisive victory.

You are with us, O good men, with us in our joys, celebrations, and victories. You are with us in our hearts and minds, in our prayers and songs, a memory of heroism and an incentive for work and struggle. Blessed may you be in your immortality.

O glorious Iraqis! O glorious Iraqi women! Pride and glory to you always. May God grant you success and guide you. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. God is great. Ignominy to the shameful.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,976

JN061701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces have destroyed eight Iranian infantry positions, four observation posts, and two vehicles in the sectors of operation in the past 24 hours.

Communique No 2,976 issued by the Armed Forces General Command this evening said a group of our fighters confronted two Iranian boats trying to approach one of our units' positions in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, killing several enemy troops and capturing one of the two boats while the second boat fled. The following is the text of the Armed Forces General Command communique: [passage omitted]

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today.

1. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

2. One machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Two enemy soldiers were killed and two observation posts and one machinegun position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. Two enemy boats approached one of our units' positions in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. A group of our heroic fighters confronted them, killing several enemy soldiers and capturing one of the two boats while the other fled. Elsewhere in the same sector, one vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. Six infantry positions, one vehicle, one control tower, and one machinegun were destroyed and their crews were killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 January 1988

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN071443 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—During the past 24 hours the Iranian enemy losses were as follows:

Six people, two infantry positions, and one shovel destroyed and three vehicles burnt.

This was announced by an Iraqi military spokesman today. The spokesman added that the Iranian losses were inflicted during the military operations which were carried out in the northern sectors, east of Al-Basrah, and east of Maysan sectors.

The spokesman added that the Iranians yesterday shelled the Bimalik housing complex and Qal'at Dizah in the northern sector with long-range artillery. As a result, one civilian was wounded.

U.S. Senator Chafee Attacked in West Bank

TA071422 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] U.S. Senator John Chafee was attacked this morning in the Qalandiyah refugee camp. He got caught up in a disturbance while on a visit accompanied by representatives of the U.S. Consulate and the United Nations.

Four youths hurled stones at the visitors but it appears they did not know foreigners were involved. A security forces patrol saw what was happening and dispersed the rioters with tear gas.

In Bayt Hanina, north of Jerusalem, five youths were arrested after an Egged bus was stoned. A 17-year-old girl was slightly injured and taken to the hospital.

Reaction to U.S. Security Council Vote

Statement Notes 'Sorrow'

TA061641 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] An official statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this evening states that Israel expresses sorrow and disappointment over the U.S. vote against Israel at the UN Security Council last night. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

This is the second time in the last 2 weeks that Israel has had to tackle the unpleasant task of reacting to a U.S. vote in the UN Security Council. Following meetings and deliberations in the Foreign Ministry, Spokesman Ehud Gol this evening issued the text of the following statement:

Israel expresses sorrow over UN Security Council Resolution 6057, which contributes neither to restoring life to normal and calm to the inhabitants of the territories nor to promoting the peace process. Israel considers itself responsible for what happens in the territories and for maintaining the well-being of the inhabitants and will continue to take action from a position of responsibility, restraint, and self-control.

Israel expresses sorrow and disappointment over the fact that the United States, its friend, joined this resolution of the UN Security Council.

So much for the text of the official statement. Political circles in Jerusalem today noted that for the first time in 6 years the United States has joined a harsh anti-Israeli resolution in the United Nations.

At the same time, these sources argue, ever since Secretary of State George Shultz returned from his Christmas vacation the criticism leveled against Israel by State Department officials has been largely toned down.

We should also note that in the last few days, U.S. diplomats accredited to Israel have voiced their assessment that in light of the riots in the territories the administration in the next few months will resume its efforts regarding the peace process in the Middle East. These sources believe that despite it being an election year in the United States, the consensus will be found in Washington to pursue an active U.S. involvement in the political process.

Called 'One-Time Event'

TA061653 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister believes we should not make sharp remarks against the United States in the wake of its vote in the Security Council.

Mr Shamir says there are signs this vote is a one-time event and should not be interpreted as a negative inclination by the United States toward us. The prime minister said this in a meeting of Likud ministers in Jerusalem this afternoon. This is reported by our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1555 GMT also reports Shamir's remarks to Likud ministers, adding that Shamir thinks "the latest developments in the territories will not significantly harm Israeli-U.S. relations." Shamir also said "the goal of the rioters is, among other things, to harm Israel's relations with friendly countries. We must not be dragged into unnecessary confrontations with countries around the world."]

Vote 'Not Surprising'

TA071221 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel is not pleased with the U.S. vote in the UN Security Council because this vote does not encourage moderate elements in the region to cooperate on behalf of peace.

At the same time, Shamir claims the vote is not surprising since the U.S. stance against deportations from the territories is known.

Talking with a group of U.S. Jews, Yitzhaq Shamir said the UN vote does not signify a change in Israel-U.S. relations. There are very close relations between both countries. There is agreement on most issues and the disagreements are tantamount to a phenomenon which exists between very good friends, the prime minister said.

Soviet Diplomat Says Reciprocity Considered

TA061939 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] A change of personnel has taken place in the Soviet consular delegation: Genrikh Plikhin is leaving, (Georgiy Martirosov) has arrived. The new Soviet diplomat today held introductory meetings at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

(Georgiy Martirosov) brings several novelties to his new post in Israel. First of all, he comes from the political division of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Unlike his predecessor, he does not belong to the Consular Administration; (Martirosov) belongs to the Evaluation and Planning Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow. His area of specialization is the Middle East and the Israeli-Arab conflict. In the past he served in the USSR Embassy in Cairo and knows Arabic.

Another novelty: (Martirosov) was able to tell his hosts in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem that Israel's request to apply the principle of reciprocity concerning consular delegations is being looked into by Moscow, thus the traditional and notorious nyet of the past, explained away by Israel's lack of consular interests in the USSR, is therefore gone.

During the meetings in Jerusalem, the head of the consular delegation did not submit any official request for the extension of his own or delegation members' visas, all of which will expire on 14 January, within precisely 1 week. The impression of those who greeted the Soviet diplomat today was that he has not arrived in Israel for 1 week only and that he will discuss the future of his delegation in the next few days.

The Soviets must realize that another extension of their stay, a second one, would require some degree of willingness on their part in the matter of reciprocity, which had been discussed as far back as the Cabinet session that approved the arrival of the Soviet delegation in Tel Aviv.

More on Reciprocity Possibility

TA061953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The Soviet Union is contemplating the possibility of opening an Israeli representation in Moscow. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned that in a meeting held today in the Foreign Ministry, Dr (Georgiy Martirosov), the new head of the Soviet consular delegation, said that the question of reciprocity—namely, the opening of an Israeli consular representation in Moscow in parallel with a Soviet consular delegation in Israel—is being seriously contemplated.

In the meeting, the heads of the Soviet delegation said the Soviet Union wants to extend the visas for the stay of the delegation in Israel. The visas will expire in mid-January. Israel will give its reply soon.

Defense Minister Addresses Knesset on Unrest

TA061248 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1134 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Address by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset in response to four no-confidence motions over government policy in the territories—live]

[Text] Honorable Knesset: On Wednesday, 2 weeks ago, I addressed the Knesset on behalf of the government on our policy in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza against the backdrop of the serious events that took place in those areas. The policy is based on three principles: First, in the short term, restoring calm while taking all the necessary steps within the framework of the law to prevent shows of violence by the population residing in these areas.

Second, the only way to obtain a permanent solution on the legal and political future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and to determine the future of the inhabitants living there can and should be through political negotiations for peace along our eastern border.

I believe that anyone who truly desires a fundamental solution should do his utmost and very best to reach the beginning of a political process, which is the only way to attain peace along our eastern border and to solve the overall problems whose solution would lead to that peace.

The third principle is to clarify unequivocally to the residents of the territories, to Arab countries, and to the international community that the path of war, threats of war, terrorism, and violent disturbances will achieve nothing.

This policy continues to serve as the guidelines for the IDF, the Border Police, and the other security forces in their attempt to attain their goals. We will pursue this policy until we secure calm. The earlier this goal is attained, the less pain and suffering for all those involved in this issue.

What has happened since the address I delivered 2 weeks ago? First, I would like to say that with respect to the Arabs of Israel, I believe that what happened on Monday, 21 December, was indeed the exception to the rule and does not reflect any change from the tradition of loyalty, cooperation, and responsibility they have shown during their 40 years as citizens of Israel.

As for the situation in the territories, I think we are in the midst of a slow process of a return to calm. We have not yet reached the level of calm we intend to attain and

from time to time, following some incident—usually an unexpected occurrence, though sometimes it is predictable—an episode develops which we would all rather not see happen.

Regarding expulsions, they take place within the prevailing laws. We only operate within the framework of the law and by that I mean the law which is binding on the Government of Israel and the tools at its disposal. I would like to express regret over the Security Council's condemnation of the use of this means and certainly I regret the fact that some countries friendly to Israel, primarily the United States, also joined in this condemnation.

We have employed this means in the past and are still using it, realizing that it is an effective measure for individual and special cases. This measure has never been employed against large numbers. Regarding the nine deportees, five of them are instigators active in organizing disturbances on behalf of Fatah. One of them belongs to Habash's organization and two belong to bodies identified with extremist Islamic elements. Two of them were released after promising not to go back to their bad habits when we carried out the package deal with Jibril's organization.

Eight of them have served prison or detention terms for various past activities. We therefore chose them in the hope of getting rid of organizers and agitators who have gone back to their bad habits and making sure they do not continue to stir up ferment in the areas.

Unfortunately, we have seen some casualties in these past 2 weeks, whether among local residents or the IDF. Two inhabitants were killed. Beyond my regret over their deaths, I am sorry they were tempted—or at least one of them was—to participate in a violent demonstration.

It was only in the difficult situation in which the IDF unit in Khan Yunus found itself yesterday that the IDF was forced to open fire, after all the other measures employed by the unit resulted not in the dispersal of the demonstration but in an attack on the IDF unit.

Regarding the detentions and the trials of rioters, according to data at my disposal, since 9 December 1,978 inhabitants were detained, 908 of whom have been released. Some of the released individuals are young boys whose families were summoned prior to their release and warned they should make sure the youths do not again participate in either violent demonstrations or in stonethrowing incidents.

It seems that it is easier for the organizing bodies to do what they did in Nabulus today; namely, to instruct a 12-year old girl to hurl a Molotov cocktail, evidently realizing that the IDF soldiers will not harm such a girl. This is the method employed in these incidents and then afterwards people ask why it is sometimes necessary to detain 14- or 15-year old youths.

Let me add that I have complete faith in the legal, prosecution, and judicial procedures that currently prevail in the military courts. They operate according to the law under difficult circumstances. Of the 1,070 who still remain in custody, 300 have already been tried. Incidentally, six of them have been acquitted according to the military judges' ruling. Another 234 are in the pre-trial process. Charge sheets against them have already been submitted.

The prosecution and military trial systems are faced with a serious challenge, but I am confident they will overcome it honorably and at the same time do everything necessary to carry out summary trials and yet not curtail the defendants' rights.

I would like to end this address by saying that from this podium I would like to express appreciation and gratitude to the IDF, the Border Police, and members of the security forces who carry out the government's policy under difficult circumstances, while showing utmost respect for the moral values which are the backbone of the IDF and the security forces.

Knesset members, I move that the four no-confidence motions be defeated.

Withdrawal 'Sign of Weakness'

TA070541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that withdrawal from even a part of the territories will be interpreted as a sign of weakness by Israel's enemies. Rabin was speaking in Jerusalem last night at a conference of North American rabbis organized by the Israel Bonds Organization. More from reporter Mark Weiss:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The defense minister said that Israel will return order to the territories and negotiations and not violence was the only way to achieve change. He admitted that images seen on TV screens throughout the world over the past few weeks had damaged Israel's image, but the political unrest must be seen in the light of the options that the Jerusalemers faced since 1967. Israel chose to keep the territories and rejected the option of withdrawal.

[Rabin] To do it means one thing, a clearcut formula for the continuation of wars against Israel, terror, and threats to our very existence. To withdraw unilaterally from even not all of the territories, but even from part of it, will be interpreted as a sign of weakness that will invite more extreme, more hostile...more readiness to take risks at wars and in terror against Israel.

[Weiss] Rabin rejected parallels made between the situation in Israel and South Africa. He said if Israel had decided at any time after 1967 to annex the territories then even within the new borders Jews would still greatly

outnumber Arabs. Referring to the comments made by the British Minister for State David Mellor during his visit to Israel this week Rabin had this to say:

[Rabin] I hope that this youngster that came over from Britain and spoke so much, better he will study part of the history in the past and the present of the behavior of Britain, then he wouldn't be so talkative as he was.

[Weiss] The defense minister said that despite the recent disturbances in the territories he retained a clear conscience. The Arabs, he said, had rejected the UN partition plan and in the 19 years after 1948 when Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip were under Jordanian and Egyptian control no attempt was made to set up a Palestinian state. [end recording]

Knesset Defeats Four No-Confidence Motions
TA061731 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Excerpt] By a coalition majority the Knesset today defeated four no-confidence motions submitted by left-wing factions on the policy of deportations and trials in the territories. The defense minister had said that deportation as punishment is an effective tool which Israel will continue using in unique cases. [passage omitted]

Molotov Cocktails in Gaza; Curfew Imposed
TA061252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on Clock Square in Gaza after two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Border Police jeep. There were no casualties or damage, our correspondent Moti Amir reports.

The curfew imposed on Khan Yunus yesterday continues. There were minor disturbances in several places in the Gaza Strip. There were disturbances and stonethrowing in the Al-Burayj and Nusayrat refugee camps and on the road to the Khan Yunus camp.

Strikes in Ramallah
TA070851 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli bus in 'Anabta, east of Tulkarm, this morning. There were no injuries and no damage was caused.

There are commercial strikes in Ramallah and in the village of Al-Ram this morning and a partial commercial strike is under way in Jericho.

Police detained nine young women and one youth for holding an illegal gathering in East Jerusalem. The incident took place on Salah al-Din Street after stones were thrown at vehicles and PLO flags were raised.

Mellor: Remarks in Line With British Policy
TA061308 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] David Mellor, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, says that the criticism he has leveled at Israel regarding its policy in the territories was expressed on behalf of the British Government. He said he was forced to make public remarks in view of the fact that quiet diplomacy had proven ineffective.

In a news conference at the conclusion of his visit, David Mellor said his argument with an officer in Gaza began because Mellor could not abstain from intervening in an incident taking place in his presence. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Mr Mellor contends that many people he talked to in Israel agreed with his opinions. He expressed amazement at the prime minister's unwillingness to consider the idea of an international conference to reach direct negotiations.

Deputy Minister Roni Milo canceled his scheduled meeting with the British minister of state, notifying the British guest that his remarks have created a situation that prevents him from holding their meeting.

Kollek Voices 'Astonishment'
TA061527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] The mayor of Jerusalem voiced his astonishment to David Mellor, minister of state in the British Foreign Office, over statements by British officials that are detrimental to coexistence in Jerusalem. Mr Kollek said that no previous regime, not even the British mandate, had seen to the welfare of Jerusalem as the Israeli Government had done.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez was told that the British official asked not to issue an official communique on his meeting with the mayor of Jerusalem. Mr Mellor ended his visit in Israel today.

UK's Kaufman in Security 'Confrontation'
TA061812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] There has been another confrontation between a senior British politician and an officer of the Israeli security forces in the territories. In an argument lasting about 10 minutes, Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign minister, prevented the arrest of a British television team that was covering his visit to the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus.

(Brent Sadler), a reporter for the British Independent Television Network, told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that about 50 women and children staged a

demonstration during Kaufman's visit to the camp. The border policemen dispersed them, threatening them with clubs, although the British television team did not see anyone beaten.

Kaufman said the policemen overreacted. Later, a Border Police officer told the television team that they were under arrest. Following an argument which lasted about 10 minutes, Kaufman managed to obtain their release.

Reporter (Sadler) says that upon arrival in the area via the Allenby Bridge this morning, Kaufman said he would refrain from any confrontation with the security forces. It was impossible to obtain the British shadow government's foreign minister's version of the story since he has not yet reached his accommodations.

Kaufman Praises IDF Officer

TA062044 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] In reaction to a report we broadcast an hour ago, Gerald Kaufman, the spokesman of the British opposition, wanted to praise the conduct of an IDF officer who was involved today in an incident at the Balatah refugee camp.

In the course of the incident Kaufman intervened, trying to prevent the arrest of a British television team that was taking photographs at the site. Kaufman said that at his request the officer immediately released the team after the team promised to stop photographing.

Husayn To Reshuffle Cabinet; Al-Rifa'i To Stay
PM070949 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jan 88 p 1

[Nasr al-Majali report: "Jordan: Cabinet Reshuffle; Zayd al-Rifa'i To Stay"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Jordanian monarch, King Husayn, at the end of this week or the beginning of next week will make a major reshuffle in the government of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, which is about to enter into its 3d year and witnessed a reshuffle a year or so ago.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's information sources in Amman said a few days ago that the Jordanian monarch had begun intensive consultations with his senior aides and advisers to put the final touches to the "Cabinet formation," which will be headed by Al-Rifa'i himself. The sources said the changes in ministerial portfolios primarily affect the "decisionmaking ministries," that is, the Foreign, Information, Defense, Economy, and Interior Ministries, as well as other ministries in direct contact with local organs and institutions.

The sources added that the reshuffle will see for the first time the appointment of four deputy prime ministers to deal with foreign, defense, economic, and parliamentary matters. This is in addition to a number of ministers of state, who are to assume their duties from the Cabinet offices to handle a number of domestic issues.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's sources confirm that in the new reshuffle King Husayn, through the letter assigning Al-Rifa'i to form the government, intends to stress the need for the new government to be capable of dealing with the requirements of the current stage, which are both "delicate and serious" with regard to economic issues on both the foreign and domestic levels.

The prime minister will reportedly abandon the position of defense minister, which has been held by prime ministers for the last half century. According to Jordanian sources, this position will be occupied by Staff Marshal Al-Sharif ibn Zayd Shakir, who will be one of the deputy prime ministers; he will also assume the defense portfolio. Therefore, a Jordanian royal decree is expected to be issued to cancel the position of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, since King Husayn, according to the Constitution, maintains his capacity as the supreme commander of these forces; both the defense minister and the chief of staff aid him in this.

The Jordanian sources said the new reshuffle in the Jordanian Cabinet will not be a "routine" one this time. It will be a radical one to match up with the numerous conditions and tasks being experienced by Jordan on both domestic and foreign levels. It is a country facing an economic crisis whose impact is reflected in the 1988 budget deficit. It must develop the results of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November. Besides, as the developments in the situation in the occupied territories and the current world approach peace, as well as the call for convening an international conference, they make the Jordanian role more distinguished and important. Therefore, Jordan has to proceed from a strong and resolute internal base to play any role that might be assigned to it.

Numerous attempts have been made in recent months to make a Cabinet "change" or "reshuffle." Names well known in the Jordanian arena have been nominated to carry out this task. But some circumstances and developments have prevented King Husayn from implementing this measure, especially his active contacts and missions over the last 8 months and his Arab tours aimed at creating suitable climates for Arab solidarity. It was these efforts which led to a summit being held in Amman, thus producing successful resolutions.

As the sources say, now taking a breather after a long period of work, the Jordanian monarch finds it appropriate to make a reshuffle to match up with current developments with men and figures who carry weight on the domestic, Arab, and international levels.

Lebanon's Al-Huss, Tunisia's Ghannouchi Depart
JN041343 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Text] Lebanon's acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss left Amman this morning, having attended meetings of the ministerial committee charged with studying the state of the organizations of joint Arab action which began yesterday. The Al-Huss visit was at the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Dr al-Huss said in a press statement that His Majesty King Husayn chaired some of the committee meetings. His Majesty King Husayn, reported Al-Huss, expressed his readiness to work along with other Arab leaders in the interest of appropriate decisions to ensure continuity of joint Arab action. Dr al-Huss said a team of Arab experts had submitted its final report to the ministerial committee. The team's task ended after the report was discussed yesterday, added Al-Huss.

He said the report will be presented to meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council, set for early February, after it is thoroughly discussed by the eight-man committee. Al-Huss hoped joint Arab action would have a new beginning.

On hand to see him off at Queen 'Alia International Airport were Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an and the Lebanese ambassador in Amman.

Meanwhile, Mohamed Ghannouchi, Tunisia's minister of planning and industry, also left Amman today after attending meetings of the ministerial committee charged with studying the state of organizations for joint Arab action.

Dudin Explains Approach to West Bank Aid

PM060951 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
2 Jan 88 pp 11, 12

[Interview with Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin by Khalid Muhadin in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-TADAMUN: It was noticeable during the recent visit of the EEC Commissioner Claude Cheysson to Jordan that there is a Jordanian media campaign against him and against the EEC. Some people have explained this campaign as having nothing to do with the issue of West Bank and Gaza agricultural produce and its export to the EEC states, but rather as linked to European insistence on proffering aid directly to the West Bank and not via the Jordanian Government.

Dudin: This is one explanation. However, I will now add an acceptable explanation, that it is the right of the Jordanian Government—which has a legitimate and sovereign position over the West Bank—to continue to uphold the fact that it is the sovereign and legitimate authority in the West Bank and that the West Bank, when it fell, fell while under the rule of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and, according to the Constitution, is an inseparable part of the country. Rallying round is one thing in political work, and good intentions are something else.

If you want to give aid to citizens or to nongovernment and noncivil organizations in the West Bank and through direct contact, then that is one thing, but rallying round to give this work a political fragrance suggests indirectly that you would like to strip the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of the sovereign responsibility for an inseparable part of the Kingdom. That is something else which is completely unacceptable. If the reference to Cheysson in the Jordanian press commentaries has taken this form and direction, then I am in favor of this reference.

AL-TADAMUN: On the principle that man does not live by bread alone, is there any form of assistance you are giving to the people's uprising against the occupation and their courageous resistance to it, apart from constructing headquarters for municipalities and market premises, by virtue of the international and Jordanian legal responsibility for the West Bank?

Dudin: We are exercising this legal responsibility in all the international organizations and exercising it with full responsibility. However, what we are doing should not be spoken about. So, I hope you will excuse me if I do not answer. We do not speak in the media about assisting the people in resisting the occupation. It is something which we do not go into. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Let us turn to the development plan. In the face of the large figures contained in the ambitious plan, there are only small figures for aid. What, in your view, is the future of this plan?

Dudin: I am very pleased with this question. What I would love to say here is: I hope no one thinks we are failing to deal with territory which is under our sovereignty and I hope no one thinks, in the capital expenditures which we have earmarked for the East Bank, that we favor this bank at the expense of the other occupied bank. The expenditures on part of our territory which is occupied ought to be decided by norms which differ completely from any norms that decide the expenditures on the part of our country which remains under our sovereignty. The citizen in the West Bank is obliged by the occupation authorities to pay taxes and custom duties. So, he is under obligation to them and they are obliged to spend on him, according to international conventions and the Geneva charters.

However, instead of spending all that they collect from him, or spending more than they collect, Israeli sources have confirmed that the occupation authorities collect 2.5 times more than they spend. So, do you not see with me that my spending within the development program ought to be restricted as much as possible to unofficial areas and to the areas of cooperation, charity, and health which are directly looked after by organizations and institutions in the West Bank. I do not have to spend what the occupation authorities ought to spend. Nobody should think that spending in the occupied territories is an easy task. Every day and with every expenditure we are up against obstacles. So, the previous planning ought not to predominate in dealing with the occupied territories.

There is a higher committee for the affairs of the occupied territories, chaired by the prime minister, and from it a committee chaired by the deputy prime minister which oversees the spending of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry. We only spend where we ought to and where it is necessary for us to spend. We must not help to perpetuate the linking of the Israeli economy to our economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Let us return to your legal and international responsibilities over the West Bank, and ask: So, why the insistence on PLO attendance at an international conference when the West Bank is a part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan according to the Constitution, as you have said?

Dudin: The international conference which we have called for ought to discuss two matters: withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and discussion of the Palestinian case from all its angles. There is no doubt that PLO participation in both respects is a fundamental

matter in the light of its legitimate representation and the exclusivity of this representation of the Palestinian people. So, we do not contradict ourselves or the PLO. [passage omitted]

AL-TADAMUN: Do you consider the people of the West Bank Jordanian or Palestinian citizens?

Dudin: I would like to clarify a matter which does not support all this philosophy. I do not want to get blessings from anyone outside my area of responsibility, such as the Jordanian Government, in order to build a school or appoint a doctor in the West Bank. However, with regard to the self-determination of these people on the land, I go along with the view agreed on at the Amman summit, which I have adequately explained.

AL-TADAMUN: Once again we ask: Are the citizens of the West Bank Jordanian or Palestinian citizens?

Dudin: They are, as far as I am concerned, as minister for the affairs of the occupied territories, Jordanian citizens, and I deal with them on this basis and as minister I do not accept any discussion of this matter, because it is limited to giving assistance to a portion of our people on territory which has been taken from our country.

I would also like to say that I do not speak about the phase after occupation. Discussion during this stage is discussion about all the aspects of the Palestinian case and not about withdrawal. I proceed in all matters with one Arab measure, one Arab soul, and one Arab existence which embraces all the sides, including the PLO on an equal footing with everyone. [passage omitted]

Welcomes UN Resolution

JN061909 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Amman—Jordan has welcomed the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council last night demanding that Israel not deport any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories. The resolution urges Israel to abide by its obligations as stipulated in the 1940 Geneva Convention, which considers Israel an occupying power.

Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin said that the Security Council resolution denouncing the occupation authorities' attempts to deport Palestinian Arab citizens from their houses and the homeland of their forefathers and to continue its brutal actions against our people who are trying to express their rejection of the continuation of the occupation puts the bali in the Israeli court. These actions violate all international norms.

In a statement to Jordanian radio, Dudin said the resolution means that Israel, which launched a large-scale aggression in 1967 and occupied territory belonging to Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, cannot convince the world that the coexistence it wants to impose on our Palestinian Arab people by force will work and be acceptable. He added that Israel should reconsider its position on the need to achieve a just peace in our region through a total withdrawal from the territories occupied by force during the 1967 war.

He added that the withdrawal should take place in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He also called for convening a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by all parties to the dispute and the five permanent Security Council members to achieve this complete withdrawal and to discuss all aspects of the Palestinian question so that a means of coexistence in this region acceptable to future generations may be achieved.

Hizballah Denies Links With 'Abbas Hamadah

NC062138 Paris AFP in English 2122 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 6 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah movement denied Wednesday it had any links with 'Abbas Hamadah, a Lebanese Shi'ite Moslem on trial in West Germany on charges he helped kidnap two West Germans in Beirut.

Shaykh Ibrahim al-Amin, one of Hizballah's leaders, told a press conference in mainly Moslem West Beirut that Mr Hamadah, whose brother Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah is a member of Hizballah, had no links with the organisation.

'Abbas Hamadah made a personal appeal Wednesday to the captors of West German citizen Rudolf Cordes to free him but denied involvement in the kidnapping last January of Mr Cordes and Alfred Schmidt.

Both men were seized in West Beirut after the arrest of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who is wanted in the United States for his alleged involvement in the hijacking of a Trans World Airline [as received] in 1985, in which a U.S. citizen was killed. Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah is also awaiting trial in West Germany over the hijacking.

Mr Schmidt was released last September.

Mr Hamadah, whose trial opened Tuesday in Duesseldorf, also faces charges of blackmailing the Bonn government and possession of explosives.

During his press conference, Shaykh Ibrahim implicitly justified hostage-taking and said that when people determine who is their enemy and recognise their crimes they can do what they "judge adequate" and "even if they make errors resort to any method to defend their cause."

Cited on National Crisis

LD061934 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 6, IRNA—The new moves in the heart of occupied Palestine have not only foiled all plots of colonialist powers but have scared stiff the U.S.-backed reactionary regimes, said Lebanese Hizballah spokesman, Sa'id Ibrahim al-Amin in a press conference, here Wednesday.

Recent plots of world arrogance disguised as 'international peace conference' or the so-called peaceful solution to the Middle-East crisis are nothing but an extention of the treacherous Camp David accord, said Al-Amin.

This hypocrisy which reached a dead-end with the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979) is now being presented in a "new deceptive garb aimed at ensuring the domination of superpowers over Muslims," he said.

The Lebanese Hizballah spokesman considered the Zionist regime and the Phalangist hegemony over Lebanon as the core of that country's problems and stressed that the crisis would not be solved unless they are removed.

He said Lebanese Hizballah is prepared to take part in any fight against the rule of the Maronite dominated Army and to employ all Hizballah resources to overthrow "the U.S.-backed regime of Amin al-Jumayyil."

Al-Amin denied that Lebanese Hizballah was involved in hostage-taking. However, he said, these measures reflect the reaction of a people who are fully encircled, adding that nations will use any possible means to fight their enemy when they are forced.

UN Representative To Call for Meeting on South

NC061550 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Lebanon has decided to call for a meeting of the UN Security Council to look into the complaint against Israel's current practices in the south, particularly in the wake of the Israeli air strikes against Iqlim al-Kharrub and Israel's continuing siege of Yuhmur. Lebanon's permanent UN representative Rashid Fakhuri has been instructed to conduct the necessary exchanges in this regard.

It should be recalled that the Security Council will convene at the end of January to extend the UN forces' mandate in the south.

Al-Jumayyil Calls for Mobilization of Resources

NC061633 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has said that the Lebanese people's determination will eventually win, through the state institutions and all the legitimate establishments that are recognized by the state.

In a speech delivered today before members of the diplomatic corps during the traditional ceremony held at Ba'bda Palace on the occasion of the New Year, President al-Jummayil said that a backbreaking phase imposed on us by transient political developments in the Middle East cannot erase centuries of coexistence. He called for the mobilization of all our resources to save our homeland.

The president added: We have all committed wrongs against Lebanon. No one can blame others for all the wrongs and claim that he alone is right, he stated, stressing that we need the blessing of great forgiveness to restore our unity.

Siege of Coast Continues; Helicopter in Baddah

NC071003 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Informed sources have revealed that the Gazelle helicopter which was flown to Al-Shuf is being kept inside a hangar in a garrison in Baddah, a small town near Al-Mukhtarah.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Air Force and Navy maintain their siege of the coast between Khaldah and Al-Awwali. No sea activity has been observed within the prohibited area.

AL-SHIRA' Links Liberation Battalion to PLO

NC071027 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Jan 88 p 7

[Text] The interview which the AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABIWA AL-DUWALI magazine claimed to have conducted with Kan'an Naji, leader of the Liberation Battalion, somewhere outside Lebanon, actually took place in one of the hotels in the coastal town of Juniyah. The venue for the interview indicates the depth of the relationship between this armed group, which is affiliated with Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir), and the Israeli-supported Lebanese Forces.

It is noteworthy that the entire military command of the so-called Liberation Battalion, which has given itself the task of fighting against the Arab deterrent forces, is present only in the eastern area and is under the protection of the Lebanese Forces. In addition to Kan'an Naji, a former official of Jundallah before it was merged by Khalil al-Wazir with the Islamic Unification Movement, the most prominent members of this command are:

Walid al-Ruzz, brother of Dawlat al-Ruzz, who is under detention in Syria because of his participation in military operations against the Syrian Army in West Beirut. He hails from the town of Tikrit in the 'Akkar District.

Samir al-Hasan, former official of the Islamic Unification Movement in Tripoli.

Khalid Mahmud, from an Arab tribe in Wadi Khalid. His nationality is presently unknown.

Walid I'ali, from the village of I'al in the Zgharta District.

This command coordinates in the field with Hawwari, Yasir 'Arafat's security official in Lebanon, who has been moving between Beirut and Sidon.

The escalation of military operations by groups supported by the Lebanese Forces and Yasir 'Arafat against the Syrian Army in Tripoli and Beirut, coupled with the threats to shift these operations to the coastal road and Al-Biqa', raises a few questions about the nature of the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue: Are there Palestinian objectors to the dialogue? Are these attempts to strengthen the Palestinian position in the dialogue?

Afghanistan

USSR's Shevardnadze Continues 'Working Visit'

LD070701 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 6, BAKHTAR—Eduard Shevardnadze, Politburo member of the CPSU CC and minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union stayed in Kabul from January 4 to 6 on a working visit.

Eduard Shevardnadze met twice with Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and conveyed to him the best wishes of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU CC.

Talks with the leadership of Afghanistan took place on an extensive range of issues. Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan was heading the Afghan delegation.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, Politburo members, Politburo alternate members and secretaries of the Central Committee of the PDPA participated at the talks. From the Soviet side V. Kamentsev deputy chairman of Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union, P. Mozhayev, Soviet ambassador in the Republic of Afghanistan, Y. Alekseyev responsible for the Middle East Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union and H. Kozyrev, roving ambassador took part in the talks.

Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, apprised Eduard Shevardnadze of the domestic situation in the framework of the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation and touched upon the advance of the process of Afghan nation-wide dialogue during which there appears the possibility of getting access to national reconciliation and the ending of bloodshed.

The Afghan side presented new ideas about how to give a new impetus for the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and the solution of the situation around Afghanistan. The ideas possess specific characteristics and basis of realistic analysis of the existing situation in the country and around it.

In this connection, high attention was given to the question of elevating the role of state organs at national and provincial level as was decided by the recent Loya Jirgah, Grand Assembly, that Afghanistan has been changed to a state possessing a presidency in governmental form.

The situation in the talks which are under way in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan under the auspice of the personal representative of the UN secretary general give the hope for completion of the process of political solution of the external aspects of the issue of Afghanistan.

The Afghan side is making constructive preparations for the next round of talks and plans that concerned agreements to be concluded in the talks.

Eduard Shevardnadze expressed full support to the policy of Afghan leadership for the realisation of national reconciliation and its political measures taken for the implementation of this policy.

The recent contacts of the Soviet side with the representatives of other states, stress on the existance of brilliant international reasons for the solution of situation around Afghanistan and the cessation of foreign intervention in its internal affairs.

This in its turn will pave the ground for the withdrawal of the Soviet limited military contingents from Afghanistan within a 12 month time.

Complete understanding and agreement exist between the Soviet and Afghan sides in this regard.

Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, talked about his impressions of his recent visits to India, Vietnam and Kampuchea. The Afghan-Soviet bilateral relations in different spheres were discussed and assessed in detail and comprehensively in the talks. In this connection, the need for the introduction of new forms, methods and fruitful cooperations between the two countries was pointed out.

It was noted that the Afghan-Soviet cooperation has at large extent increased recently and a number of important industrial establishments are in the process of starting functioning. Commercial and economic cooperation with Afghan private entrepreneurs are being rendered. Agreement has been reached on bringing about cooperation between scientific institutions, social and cultural organisations.

The direct links of cooperation were established in practice between republics, states and cities of the Soviet Union and the provinces and cities of Afghanistan.

Measures have been discussed to make the process more active and a definite program of measures has been considered.

Eduard Shevardnadze had meeting and held talks with 'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan, Muhammad Rafi', Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, members of Politburo of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Shahnawaz Tanay, alternate member

of the Politburo of the PDPA, Mahbullah Koshani, Bashir Baghlani, Eshaq Kawa, members of the leadership of Revolutionary Organisation of the Working People of Afghanistan (ROWPA).

Longterm programs of cooperation in the fields of commerce and economy were discussed during the talks held between V. Kamentsev and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, chairman of Planning Committee of the Republic of Afghanistan and leadership of the ministries and institutions of Afghanistan.

Edurard Shevardnadze and V. Kamentsev, met with a group of private entrepreneurs and representatives of national traders of Afghanistan as well.

During the meeting, matters relating to the consolidation and expansion of mutual trade and economic relations, including establishment of joint companies, attraction of private capital, complete use of Soviet credits, increase in the import of Soviet goods to Afghanistan as well as export of Afghan commodities to the Soviet Union, and expansion of border trade ties, etc were assessed.

Muhammad Hakim, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Afghanistan, Karimzada, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Kabul, Siddiqi, chairman of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Herat and P. Mozhayev, ambassador of the Soviet Union in the Republic of Afghanistan participated in the meeting.

The meeting and discussions which had a friendly and open characteristic, were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete understanding.

Departs 6 Jan

LD061902 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and the USSR foreign affairs minister, returned to his country today after a working visit to the Republic of Afghanistan. At Kabul Airport he was seen off by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau and prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and other officials.

Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the USSR in the Republic of Afghanistan, was also present at the airport farewell.

UN Human Rights Official Meets Foreign Minister

LD070420 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Prof Felix Ermacora, special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission and head of a delegation, is preparing a report on human rights in the Republic of Afghanistan. Continuing his meetings with authorities and competent organs of our country, he held talks with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil this morning at the Foreign Ministry.

At this meeting, the Afghan foreign minister spoke about the important events and developments that have taken place in the country since Ermacora's first visit in July 1987 with regard to the implementation of the national reconciliation policy.

At a meeting with Dr Hasan Sharq, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for Returnees Affairs, the minister explained the committee's activities and methods of work.

According to another report, Ermacora met with members of the Constitutional Drafting Commission this afternoon. At this meeting, talks were held and views exchanged on the new Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan with regard to the observance of human rights and government obligations to uphold international treaties signed by the Republic of Afghanistan.

Professor Ermacora met with the head of the Department for Combating Criminal Offences in the Interior Ministry this afternoon where they discussed subjects of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Receives UK Delegation

LD070405 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, the foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning met with the British parliamentary delegation led by Ron Brown, a Labour Party MP and chairman of the British-Afghan Friendship Society.

At this meeting, the foreign minister spoke about the mechanisms, objectives, and gains of the national reconciliation policy. They exchanged views on regional and international issues. Ron Brown expressed the hope that despite the opposition of the British Conservative government to the Afghan revolution, some British Labour Party members will try to speak out about the reality of the situation and revolution in Afghanistan and the objectives of the national reconciliation policy by convening meetings and press conferences, as well as by speaking in Parliament.

The parties also expressed views about further progress in cooperation between the friendship societies of the two countries.

Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina Says Opposition To Boycott Polls

BK061539 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, President of Bangladesh Awami League [AL] and leader of the Eight-Party Alliance on Sunday empathically declared that the Opposition political parties would not participate in the election under President Ershad. She called upon the people to observe February 28, the day for parliamentary election as Black Day.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing a big rally organised by the Eight-Party Alliance at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city. It was Sheikh Hasina's first public meeting since her release from house arrest on December 11. Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia were arrested by the Government on November 11 last year and given one month's detention.

The rally of the Eight-Party Alliance was addressed by, among others, Mr Abdur Razzak, General Secretary of Baksal [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League], Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, President of NAP [National Awami Party], Mrs Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of Awami League, Mr Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mr Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal and Mr Nurul Alam and Abdus Sobhan of Gono Azadi League.

The Awami League chief said that nothing short of the resignation of the Government would stop the current movement. Referring to the announcement of election date by the Government, she said the Opposition political parties did not want election. The demand of the Opposition parties is transfer of power to neutral person equally acceptable to all and holding of free and fair polls under a neutral Government.

Sheikh Hasina warned the Government against holding of election keeping outside the mainstream Opposition parties including the Bangladesh Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. She said election without these Opposition parties will not be meaningful. She said the people will not allow the Government to hold its farcical election and resist it at all costs.

Referring to the last parliamentary election, Sheikh Hasina said that the Eight-Party Alliance had won 226 seats in that election. But President Ershad and his party snatched the victory from the alliance through ballot dacoity and media coup.

The presidential election too was a ridiculous one without the participation of the voters and the political parties. President Ershad bemused the nation and the outside world declaring himself victorious in the voterless election, Sheikh Hasina said.

She said President Ershad's rival in the presidential election was a killer, who still admits the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The AL chief demanded withdrawal of emergency. She demanded release of all political prisoners and withdrawal of restrictions on publication of news.

She criticised the closure of BBC operation in Bangladesh and arrest of BBC correspondent.

Begum Khaleda Zia Repeats Call To Resist Polls

BK061545 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of BNP and leader of the Seven-Party Alliance, on Sunday reiterated her call to resist holding of parliamentary polls under the present Government. All elections held under the Ershad Government were rigged and as such people's hope for fair polls under him has been totally shattered, she added.

Addressing a large public-meeting, organised by the Seven-Party Alliance at Gulistan Square, the BNP chief gave a call to continue the movement till the present Government is forced to quit. The people through the observance of the movement programmes have given their verdict against the illegal Government of President Ershad, she said.

Begum Zia was addressing the meeting from the corridor of the first floor of the National Book Centre (Grantha Bhavan) as the police barred them from holding public meeting.

The people in processions were coming to the meeting venue from all directions till 4-30 p.m. They were chanting various slogans against the present Government.

Addressing the meeting amid thunderous slogans, Begum Zia said the people from all walks of life have been united on one-point demand—resignation of Ershad Government and restoration of democracy. Stressing the need for forging greater unity of all to compel the present Government to quit Begum Zia said, "We believe in constitutional politics and we want election as an instrument for changing Government." But the election has to be held under a neutral government as President Ershad has lost his credibility by his deeds.

She said that there was no rule of law in the country in a situation where Supreme Court and High Court were closed for long. The Finance Minister has resigned following the collapse of the economy, she said.

Begum Zia said that at least 10,000 political detenus [detainees] were languishing in jails. Recalling the loss of lives on November 10 and during the recent democratic movement, Begum Zia paid tributes to their memory.

She asked the government to stop repression. Begum Zia also asked to stop harassment of farmers and weavers in the name of loan recovery.

Begum Zia said that Opposition programme from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. has been fixed on January 20 and 21 so that holding of Bishawa Iztema is not disturbed.

Begum Zia said that President Ershad has to resign as people did not elect him and he seized power in March, 1982 from an elected government. Though he seized power bringing charges of corruption against the BNP Government corruption is all pervasive now, she said.

She demanded release of all political detenus including that of Brig. (Retd) Hannan Shah and Sanual Huq Niru.

Criticising the Government, she said that educational institutions are closed for long as it did not favour proper education of our children. We cannot allow such a situation to continue for long, she said.

If there is any patriot in the ruling party they should quit, she said. Despite the demand from students for reopening the university, the Government was keeping them closed, she said.

President Ziaur Rahman incorporated 'Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim' in the constitution and President Ershad has nothing to do with it, she said.

Presided over by Begum Zia it was addressed by Alliance leaders Mirza Golam Hafiz, K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Barrister A. Salam Taluker, Mr. A. Matin Chowdhury, Mr. Tariqul Islam, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Mia Sadequr Rahman, Mr. A. Rouf Chowdhury, Begum Farida Rahman, Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Mr. Fazlur Rahman Patal and Mr. Ahmed Nazir.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said that President Ershad's Cabinet is illegal. He said that the President has violated the Constitution several times including seize of power.

K.M. Obaidur Raham demanded withdrawal of emergency, curfew and restrictions on the press. He accused the ruling party workers for throwing bombs at Begum Zia's car on November 10. All our democratic rights have been snatched away. We will restore those compelling the Ershad Government to quit, he asserted.

He proposed a joint grand public meeting of Seven-Party, Eight-Party and Five-Party Alliances to be addressed by Begum Zia, Sheikh Hasina and others. People raising their hands endorsed his proposal.

Barrister Salam Talukder said holding of this big meeting ignoring restrictions adequately prove the people's unity to force this Government to quit.

Later, processions paraded the city streets chanting various slogans.

Khaleda Zia Denies Foreign Involvement Charge

BK061628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] One of the main opposition leaders of Bangladesh, Begum Khaleda Zia, has rejected the government's charges that foreign powers are behind the opposition campaign to topple President Ershad. She said in Dhaka that the Ershad government is playing up the bogey of foreign involvement to, what she said, confuse the people and divert their attention from the opposition movement.

India

Pakistani Security Men 'Hijack' 15 Fishermen

BK070916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] report says 15 Indian fishermen have been hijacked by Pakistani marine security men from Indian waters of Jakhau Port in the Gulf of Kutch. The agency quoted the president of the fishermen's association as saying that boats carrying 20 fishermen were forcibly towed away by Pakistani security men while they were fishing in the Indian waters yesterday. Five of them jumped out and swam to safety to report the incident to the authorities.

Haryana Ministers Submit Resignations

BK070906 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] In a dramatic move, all the Haryana ministers have submitted their resignations to express solidarity with the chief minister, Mr Devi Lal. This decision was taken at a meeting of the ministers held late last night. Mr Devi Lal told our Chandigarh correspondent today that he has received all the resignation letters.

Last week, the chief minister's son, Mr Om Prakash Chautala, resigned from the presidentship of the Haryana Lok Dal-B. Another son, Mr Ranjit Singh, also resigned from his seat in the state assembly. The resignations came in the wake of allegations that Mr Devi Lal's relatives have attained positions of power during his regime.

Janaki Ramachandran Sworn In as Chief Minister

BK070820 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, an 18-member All India Anna DMK ministry, headed by Mrs Janaki Ramachandran, has assumed office. The Governor, Mr S.L. Khurana, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mrs Ramachandran and other ministers at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Madras today. The 64-year-old Mrs Ramachandran is the first woman chief minister of the state. Besides the chief minister, the other ministers sworn in are: Mr R.M. Veerappan, Mr P.U.

Shanmugam, Mr C. Ponnaiyan, Mr S. Muthusamy, Mr V.V. Swaminathan, Mr T. Ramasamy, Mr A. Arunachalam. Mrs Ramachandran will hold charge of the important portfolios of home, finance, revenue, and industry. Mr Veerappan will look after local administration and labor. The portfolios of the other ministers are almost the same as held by them in the late M.G. Ramachandran's ministry.

Immediately after assuming office, the new chief minister declared that her government would strive for the full implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. In a statement, Mrs Ramachandran said she will follow the policies of her husband and extend the same cooperation to the progressive policies of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. She said that her government will make all efforts to protect and foster national integration. Mrs Ramachandran said she will implement all the welfare measures initiated by the late M.G. Ramachandran for the benefit of the weaker sections.

GNLF Men Arrested; Ghisingh, Minister Meet

BK061620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, 54 more GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested in the hill areas of Darjeeling today. In Tindharia, the GNLF activists opened fire and threw bombs at a police party clearing the road blocks. They also attacked a police camp at (Hima Fall) in Darjeeling subdivision last night. Meanwhile, the Hill Employees Association has withdrawn its call for indefinite strike in state government offices.

The home minister has reiterated that the GNLF must end violence for any progress in the efforts to find a solution to the problem in the Darjeeling Hill areas. Mr Buta Singh told the GNLF leader, Mr Subash Ghisingh, who met him in New Delhi today, that violence from any quarter is harmful to the democratic system and should be eschewed. Mr Ghisingh alleged that his followers were being provoked by CPI-M cadres with the help of West Bengal Police.

Police, Gurkha 'Militants' Clash in Kalimpong

BK070826 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, one GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] militant was killed and two policemen received minor injuries in an exchange of fire between the police and GNLF militants at Kamandhara in Kalimpong town early this morning. The superintendent of police, Mr P.K. Sahay, told our Siliguri correspondent that the incident occurred when a police party went to the area on a raid. When fired upon from the GNLF militants, the police party returned the fire in self-defense. A bomb-making factory has been unearthed from the area during the raid. A huge quantity of explosive material, instruments, and bombs were also recovered.

Air Force Receives 9 More Mirage 2000 Jets

BK070732 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 87 p 5

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 27 (UNI)—India has received nine more Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft from France fitted with the improved and uprated jet engines.

With the supply of additional nine Mirage 2000 aircraft the strength of the Mirage fleet in the Indian Air Force [IAF] has risen to 49.

The Mirages are fitted with two Super Matra Magic 530-TD air to air missiles and two Matra 550 missiles.

The IAF had projected a requirement of another nine Mirage 2000 aircraft over and above the 49, but the Union Cabinet has not yet cleared the project.

The Mirages were brought to India by IAF pilots in fly away condition.

According to official sources, India has rejected the French offer for licence production of about 150 Mirages at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), but they do not rule out further strengthening of Mirage fleet of the IAF in the future.

The Indian Mirages are fitted with the RDM Multi-Mode Pulse Doppler radar. The French have perfected a new EDI radar for the French Air Force Mirages and it is learnt that the new radar has now been offered to India.

The Mirages carry a wide range of armament including two 30 mm Defa cannon, laser guided weapons, anti-ship and anti-radar missiles and are fitted with the terrain following and navigation updating radar—Antelope-5, and extensive electronic counter measures.

The Indian Mirage 2000 aircraft equip two air defence squadrons—the No. 7 squadron called "Battle Axe" based at Gwalior and No. 1 squadron (Tigers) and its location is classified.

Commentary on U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan

BK061249 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Commentary by C. Rajamohan of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis: "New U.S. Military Aid to Pakistan"]

[Text] The Pakistani military capability is set to receive a big boost with the new American aid package being unveiled. It may be recalled that the U.S. Congress has cleared in December a whopping $4.02 billion aid package to be delivered over the next 6 years to Pakistan. This track of aid follows the $3.2 billion economic and military assistance provided by the United States to Pakistan over the past 6 years.

The U.S. Congress has decided to ignore the unrelenting pursuit of clandestine nuclear weapons program by Pakistan and its blatant violation of U.S. domestic laws on nuclear nonproliferation. Clearly, the perceptions of American strategic interest in southwest Asia, Afghanistan, and the Gulf region have prevailed over American commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

The U.S.-Pakistan military relationship was revived in 1981 following the developments in Iran where the shah's regime collapsed and in Afghanistan, where Soviet military presence occurred in 1979. The collapse of the Soviet-American detente in the late 1970's and the revival of cold war confrontation between the two great powers saw the ascendance of Pakistan in the American strategic perceptions. The Islamabad government has fully used the American perceptions to [word indistinct] its own military strength.

The first American aid package of $3.2 billion to Pakistan was divided equally between military and economic components. Under this aid package, Pakistan has greatly bolstered its military capabilities. The past 6 years have seen the induction of sophisticated F-16 fighter aircraft, OBID Mohawk aircraft for battlefield surveillance, Gearing class destroyers, Harpoon antiship missiles and TOW antitank weapons among others. As part of the U.S.-Pakistan strategic consensus, Islamabad has also had the benefit of sharing U.S. military intelligence. It has also been reported from Pakistan that substantial portion of the economic component of U.S. aid has gone into the beefing up of Pakistan's military infrastructure, modernization of air fields, and construction of roads.

The composition of the new military aid package has been under discussion for some time in Washington and Islamabad. A focus has been on the question of supplying an airborne early warning system to Pakistan. The United States has decided in principle to provide such a capability to Pakistan. Pakistan has been keen on acquiring the sophisticated E-3A AWACS—Airborne Warning and Control System. The United States is yet to decide between the E-3A and E-2C Hawkeye, a less advance system. The supply of either of the systems would enormously strengthen the offensive capabilities of Pakistan Air Force. Although the systems are being projected as defensive, they are essentially offensive in nature by providing air battle management capabilities to Pakistan. They generate the force-multiplier effect to Pakistani Air Force. It is difficult to match AWACS' capability since no country other than the United States has any comparable system in production.

Pakistan is also seeking the advanced F-16C aircraft. The F-16C has more accurate navigational system, better fire control radars, and more powerful weapon payload than the F-16A's which Islamabad already has in its armory. The F-16C's would indeed provide a reliable and accurate capability to deliver nuclear weapon.

Under the new aid package Pakistan's naval capabilities are also to be enhanced by the supply of P-3 maritime surveillance aircraft. A key part of the aid package would also go toward expanding and modernizing Pakistan's armor. It is likely that Pakistan would get about 200 to 300 American tanks, either sophisticated M-1 tanks or the advanced versions of M-48. This might help Pakistan raise a third armored division.

The net effect of the new aid package would be to strengthen Pakistan's offensive military capabilities. The new aid package would also expand Pakistan's military infrastructure, including weapon production capabilities.

Whatever might be the American perception, the thrust of new Pakistan capabilities would be directed against India and it would fuel and increase in India-Pakistan tensions. It would divert the badly needed resources from development to defense and obstruct the evolution of any process of peace in the subcontinent.

Iran

Khomeyni Answers Khamene'i Letter on Authority

NC070736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] In a letter, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i asked the esteemed imam to clarify his comments about the Friday prayers sermons in Tehran with regard to the limits of the rights of the Islamic government, and to express his opinion from the viewpoint of jurisprudence. The imam of the nation has responded to his request as follows:

In His exalted name. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic, may your shadow continue. Greetings and salutations. I do not want any controversy to arise at this sensitive juncture, and I believe that in such circumstances silence is preferred. However, we should not believe that whatever we may say or do, others have no right to dissent. Dissent and even fault-finding are a God-given blessing which facilitates human growth. Moreover, I do not consider it proper to remain silent in the face of your letter and the query contained therein. Therefore, I will present my opinion in a concise manner.

It appears from your excellency's remarks at the Friday prayers sermons that you do not recognize that the government, which is tantamount to a total vice-regency from God bestowed upon the great prophet (PBUH), is among the most important divine injunctions and has priority over all peripheral divine orders. Your interpretation of what I said, that is, the government has jurisdiction within the framework of divine injunctions, is in fact contradictory to what I said. If you consider the rights of the government among the secondary divine

injunctions, then the entrustment of the divine government and the vice-regency bestowed on the great prophet of Islam (PBUH) would be hollow and meaningless.

I wish to point out that there are situations in which one must abide by the rules. For example, the construction of roads may entail encroachment on private houses or property and does not fall under the category of peripheral injunctions. Conscription; compulsory dispatch to the fronts; prevention of the exodus of foreign exchange or imports or exports of all kinds of commodities; even the ban on hoarding, except in one or two cases; customs; taxes; prohibition of blackmarketeering, price-fixing, and drug activities; prohibition of addiction in all forms, except in the case of alcoholic drinks; and carrying of all kinds of arms, as well as hundreds of other instances which are part of government powers do not fall in this category according to your interpretation. However, I must state that the government, which is part of the total vice-regency of the prophet of God (PBUH), is one of the foremost injunctions of Islam and has priority over all the other secondary injunctions, even prayers, fasting, and the hajj.

The ruler is authorized to demolish a mosque or a house which is in the path of a road, and to compensate the owner in cash. The ruler can close down a mosque if need be, or can even demolish a mosque which is the source of harm [zarar] if its harm cannot be eliminated except by demolition. The government is empowered to unilaterally revoke any lawful agreements with people if the agreement contravenes the interests of Islam and the country. It can prevent any matter, whether religious or secular, if it is against the interests of Islam. The hajj, which is foremost among divine obligations, can even be temporarily prevented if it is contrary to the interests of the Islamic country.

What has been said so far and is still being said stems from the inability to recognize the complete vice-regency of God. Rumor has it that speculation [modarabeh] and share-cropping contracts [mozare'eh] will be eliminated with such powers, and I can say that in individual cases this may be so. These are among the rights of the government. There are other, even greater rights which I will not touch upon at the moment. God willing, may God protect people like you who have no other goal except to serve Islam!

16 Dey 1366 [6 January 1988]

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

Cites Khamene'i 'Misinterpretation'

LD071030 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 7 Jan 88

["Imam's Response to President's Question on 'Government's Authority'"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—In a letter to President Khamene'i published here today, the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni told him that he had misinterpreted in his last week's Friday prayers sermons, an earlier statement by the imam regarding the limits of the Islamic government's authority in the society.

"Your observations during the Friday prayers (Jan. 1) apparently purports that you do not recognize government as an institution ordained by the Almighty and founded with absolute power entrusted to the prophet (SAW) and as an entity supplanting secondary statutes of the canonical law in Islam," the imam's letter said.

"Your conclusion on the proposition based on my earlier statement that 'government exercises power only within the bounds of the divine statutes' is a misquote and misinterpretation," said the imam, adding if 'government' were to be defined as an institution exercising power only within the bounds of the statutory laws of divine origin, then God's entrustment of absolute power to Prophet Mohammad (SAW) would have been an entrustment devoid of sense.

President 'Ali Khamene'i, who is also leader of Friday prayers in Tehran, had requested Imam Khomeyni to declare his religious viewpoints regarding the limits of the Islamic government's authority in order to have shed more light on the issue.

Imam Khomeyni said in his reply that he was not willing to make arguments "under the present sensitive situation" and preferred to remain silent. However, he said, it was wrong to assume that no body should protest "whatever we say and do." Instead, the imam said, criticism and finding faults are among divine gifts for the promotion of human beings.

The government, the imam's letter stressed, has the right to destroy a house standing on the way of a street and pay the price to its owner. It can also close down a mosque and even destroy it if proved harmful, added the letter. The government is also authorized to unilaterally cancel religious contracts it has concluded with the people if they are found to be against the interests of the country and Islam. The government, it went on to say, can also temporarily prevent the performing of hajj ceremonies which is among important divine rituals, when it contradicts the Islamic state's interests.

In conclusion of his letter, Imam Khomeyni prayed to the Almighty to "protect people like you (the president) who have no intention but to serve Islam."

In related news, commenting on Imam Khomeyni's letter to the president, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that "the Majlis and the Council of Guardians are obliged to spend more time on the issue."

Speaking at the open session of the Majlis Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the "depth of leadership and competency of management" are crystallized in the imam's statements made recently in reply to the letters of the secretary of the Council of Guardians and the president.

He stressed that the imam's sound leadership has saved the people, the revolution and Islam from discord and sedition at crucial junctures.

Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Imam Khomeyni's recent statements have further clarified the imam's path, adding that there should be no longer any differences among those who really advocate the imam's line.

The Majlis speaker also urged the Council of Guardians to take the imam's viewpoints "seriously" and discuss with the imam privately whatever issues they are faced with so that they would not spread in the society.

The speaker concluded his remarks by expressing hope that all the officials would serve the people and rely on Islam as the "best system of administration in the world."

Majlis Speaker on Khomeyni Reply

LD071224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, during today's open session of the Islamic Majlis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, gave a detailed speech in which he referred to the imam of the ummah's reply to a letter from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. He said the reply should be studied thoroughly. He added: The Majlis, the deputies, and the esteemed Council of Guardians are dutybound to give great attention to this issue and understand its meaning, so that in the future we will no longer assume the right to impose something on Islam by raising vague and ambiguous issues.

Referring to the dimensions of the imam of the ummah's leadership and his status as the source of emulation, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The views expressed by his holiness the imam in reply to a letter from the secretary of the Council of Guardians, the president's letter, and in reply to other letters and queries during the past few weeks, illustrate the depth of his holiness's leadership and management. The meaning of proper leadership and its true manifestation is the same; that is, the leadership should respond to the call of the people, the revolution, society, and Islam at moments and junctures when a sensitive issue threatens to create a vacuum or discord in society, and when an issue threatens to divide the people and create sedition. Otherwise, it is not the duty of the leadership to supervise routine matters of life. We, the officials, should attend to routine matters, and the leaders, who look at society from a wider point of view, should take charge of sensitive issues. Fortunately, his eminence has come to society's assistance whenever necessary and now, thanks to his letter of reply, it has become clear that his holiness's silence on other occasions has particular meaning too.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis stressed: I think that with these recent letters, the imam's line has become clear. Moreover, if everyone accepts the imam's line, there should no longer be any division among us. In this Majlis, too, in view of the fact that an absolute majority of the deputies are sincere, faithful, and sympathetic to Islam and follow the leader, there is no reason why we should have discord on issues that do not concern us but concern the leader. The issues are clear. Of course, biased individuals can express doubts about parts of the Koran, too. One can doubt and question everything.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: It would be grossly unfair if Islam were unable to demonstrate its power on essential issues of the state. For instance, some individuals might raise a particular issue by saying: You should not concern yourself with this or that economic or social sector, because there is a saying against it somewhere.

In any case, today the views of the leader are our final authority, and I am sincerely grateful for the explicit statements made these days. I feel humble in the face of so much firmness that I observe in the leader. I call upon the Majlis deputies not to allow any doubts to be cast on this bright and luminous path and I beg the esteemed Council of Guardians, the gentlemen who were appointed by his holiness imam to pay serious heed to the imam's guidance, not to allow their own views or those of others to obstruct the implementation of the imam's guidelines. If they have a problem with a certain issue, they can meet with the imam privately and ask questions.

Of course, in my opinion, the issues were clear from the start. The day that the imam graciously said: If the majority of the Majlis approves something... [sentence incomplete as heard] And the day that the imam granted this permission, the issue should have become clear to everyone. However, there was some talk that his holiness mentioned that a two-thirds majority was required in the Majlis. Later, they raised the issue of primary and secondary injunctions and created this debate.

There is no need for such talk. As the imam has graciously said, the government's prerogative applies absolutely to most of the matters the gentlemen are talking about. Unfortunately, the reverse has applied. I believe the path is clear, but sometimes the issues are interpreted differently, depending on the economic and social views of individuals. Of course, there should also be room for discussions to ascertain whether or not something is in the interest of society or the government's action is advisable. However, this should not become an obstacle. If some individuals decide to take steps toward realization of the people's rights, the right of the government, and the interest of society, they should not be accused of recklessness.

Khamene'i Addresses Cabinet Session 6 Jan
LD061634 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—The wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni along with the firm determination of the Iranian people and government, has foiled all conspiracies against the Islamic Republic, said President 'Ali Khamene'i at the cabinet session here Wednesday.

However, he added, the Islamic revolution necessitates that the Iranian nation be fully prepared to thwart for good the useless idea of military and economic sanctions.

The president who chaired the cabinet session also said the country's rich resources, both human and financial, will accelerate the Islamic Republic's pace of advance towards self-sufficiency in agriculture. He called for the exploitation of all potentialities and facilities in a concerted planning in this regard.

Today's session discussed some important current events of the country, regional developments, the Afghan issue as well as the rising Islamic movement in occupied Palestine and its international impacts.

Also speaking at the cabinet session was Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali who presented his ministry's ten-year programme for achieving self-sufficiency in agriculture keeping in mind Iran's population growth during this period.

Khamene'i Views Upcoming 'Sensitive' Elections
LD061911 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today described the forthcoming nationwide parliamentary elections due to be held in April as "more sensitive" than the past two polls.

President Khamene'i, addressing a seminar of elections supervisory boards, assigned by the Council of Guardians, said great importance has been attached to election affairs in Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Khamene'i also described the Majlis (the Islamic Consultative Assembly) as "popular" and parliamentary elections as "healthy" of which the Islamic Republic has always been proud.

The credibility of the Majlis is based on its ability to hold elections in a healthy atmosphere, said Khamene'i, adding that healthy election can be interpreted as the health of the Majlis itself.

"Healthy elections prove the Islamic Republic's respect for people's attitudes," reiterated Khamene'i, noting "the Islamic Republic has the largest number of people voting for parliamantary elections, compared to other countries."

Elsewhere in his speech, President Khamene'i condemned any propaganda which might influence public voting.

On the significance of the third legislation term of the Majlis, Khamene'i said during this term the Majlis deputies will give a vote of confidence to two different compositions of the cabinet, one following parliamentary polls and the other after presidential elections and appointment of a prime minister by him.

Also present at the seminar were Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, head of the elections supervisory board of the Council of Guardians, Ayatollah Khazali, a member of the council and Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Carlucci Remarks Suggest Withdrawal From Gulf
LD061723 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] London, Jan. 6, IRNA—The United States has no intention of expanding its role in the Persian Gulf, Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has said in a series of comments suggesting that Washington wants to water-down its massive presence in the area.

"We are not policing every area of the high seas for every country," he was quoted saying before leaving Kuwait for Bahrain Wednesday.

"That is not an appropriate role for the United States," he said and maintained that his country had "no apologies to make to anyone."

Carlucci is on a week-long visit to Persian Gulf Arab states and has come under severe criticism about the U.S. failure to protect merchant shipping. Attacks on tankers in the Persian Gulf have more than doubled since the U.S. military build-up started last July.

The defense secretary is also due to travel on to Saudi Arabia and added that he intended to make "appropriate recommendations" of any changes needed in the region, when he reports back to President Reagan.

His comments come at a time when the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf are a particular liability in an election year and are seen as the clearest sign yet that the Americans have accepted their mission has failed, and aim to cut back their military presence in the area.

Observers recall the speed with which Reagan pulled out of Lebanon during his re-election year in 1984 after 240 marines were killed in their Beirut barracks and U.S. policy makers fear the damaging effect of a repeat in the Persian Gulf on its credibility.

THE WASHINGTON POST said the indications were that Carlucci's intentions were to "keep the U.S. military mission in the strategic waterway limited in scope" and other reports have suggested that withdrawal plans are already in hand for the first two warships.

The Europeans have let it be known that they are unhappy about their support in the Persian Gulf and criticisms of the Americans have also reached the press of their Arab allies.

The daily AL-KHALIJ of the United Arab Emirates reported this week that the U.S. defence secretary must hear on his every stop in Arab countries that the American presence has "complicated the prospects" for bringing about an end to the Iraqi war.

Musavi Sends Messages to Castro, Others

LD060700 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT 6 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi on Tuesday sent congratulatory messages to Cuban leader Fidel Castro, Prime Minister of Nepal Marich Man Singh, and Prime Minister of Burma U Maung Maung Kha on the occasion of their independence anniversaries.

In his messages, Musavi expressed hope for the expansion of Iran's relations with those countries.

Red Crescent Official on Aid to Palestinians

LD061809 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—The Muslims' uprising in occupied Palestine has served to disrupt all plots as well as overt or covert talks between reactionary Arab leaders, the Zionist regime and the superpowers, said a high-ranking Iranian official here Wednesday.

Seyfollah Vahid Dastjerdi, head of Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS), added that the Palestinian uprising inspired by Iranians' epic struggles leading to the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, has created great panic among the superpowers and reactionary Arab leaders.

Since the Palestinian move has jeopardized the vested interests of Arab puppet regimes and global arrogance, enemies of Islam would certainly try to distort realities through their propaganda tirades including their gathering together and setting up committees, stressed Dastjerdi.

On the ways of sending Iranian assistance to wounded Palestinian Muslims, Dastjerdi said that his organization has already announced its readiness to all relevant international circles for treatment of wounded Palestinians in Iran or in other countries.

He said that IRCS will give its financial, pharmaceutical and food-stuff aid to Palestinian Muslims through its own channels or International Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Arianespace To Launch Satellite in 'Near Future'

PA061451 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1530 GMT 4 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Paris, 4 Jan (REUTER)—The European consortium [words indistinct] agreement for launching an Iranian telecommunications satellite.

According to the Iranian news agency IRNA, Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Minister Mohammad Gharazi said Saturday that the Zohren satellite—an Iranian satellite designed and built by Iranians at a cost of $60 million—would be launched in the near future to bring television to all of Iran.

Gharazi told IRNA that "Ariane will launch the Iranian satellite at a cost of $45 million."

An Arianespace spokesman in Paris told REUTER that "there are no negotiations underway and no contract exists."

He added that Iran had contacted Arianespace to discuss launching the satellite, and he did not discount the possibility of holding negotiations.

At any rate, he said the Ariane launch schedule is booked up until 1991, and he dismissed the possibility of launching any Iranian satellite before then, unless another customer gave up his turn. [passage omitted]

Counterfeit Notes Found; 'Insurgents' Arrested

NC060722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] The deputy commander of the Baluchestan va Sistan IRGC has announced that a printing press for counterfeit 10,000-rial notes was found in the province's border area and destroyed after IRGC members discovered counterfeit money circulating in Baluchestan va Sistan Province. He added that during the identification checks and investigation by the 10th independent Nabi al-Akram District, IRGC members raided the place where the press was kept, arrested or killed the elements involved, and destroyed the counterfeiting machine. They also completely destroyed a large cache filled with 10,000-rial notes found hidden in a (?cave).

The Central News Unit reports that the deputy commander of the IRGC in Baluchestan va Sistan also said that during various separate operations by Basijis in the Baluchestan va Sistan area, five groups of 60 members each of insurgents and counterrevolutionary elements were arrested, a large quantity of arms and ammunition was confiscated, and several people were killed. He stated that one insurgent and 50 monarchists and pro-Iraqi elements surrendered to the forces of Islam in Baluchestan va Sistan's (Mirshahr) area following the operations.

He also said that a large network which was involved in the buying and selling of light and semi-heavy arms for counterrevolutionary elements operating in the Baluchestan va Sistan area was uncovered and its members arrested.

Velayti Addresses Concluding SAIRI Session

LD062202 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Never had the U.S. compromised with the Eastern bloc to the extent it does now in its present state of acute desperation to defeat Islamic Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the concluding session of the extraordinary meet of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) here today.

Velayati referring to the panic among supporters of the Iraqi regime over the imminent Iranian victories added that current political and propaganda moves betray the fear of Baghdad's supporters, and no doubt Washington would be the biggest loser if Saddam's (Husayn) regime is toppled.

"That's why the U.S. has employed all its potential to protect the Baghdad regime," Velayati said, mentioning Washington's feverish efforts to pass the Security Council Resolution 598 as part of its measures to keep Saddam afloat.

He also urged SAIRI to unite and mobilize all Iraqi opposition groups in order to hasten the downfall of the Ba'thist regime, and establish a government in Iraq according to the will of the Iraqi people.

Meanwhile, the session issued a resolution at the end of its meet in which it stressed on continuation of the armed struggle until the downfall of the Ba'thist regime. The only way for ending the war and restoring regional peace is annihilation of the Baghdad regime, it stressed.

The resolution said global arrogance and regional reactionaries are not capable of protecting the regime despite their massive influx of aid. It also termed decisions of the Amman Arab summit as "humiliating" and condemned them.

Elsewhere the resolution condemned the vassal Saudi regime for massacring hajj pilgrims in Mecca as well as presence of the foreign forces in the region under the patronage of the U.S.

SAIRI made it clear to Ba'thist regime's creditors that the future government of Iraq has no commitment to honour foreign loans given to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

Iraqi Mercenaries, Bandits Killed in Baluchestan

LD062237 Tehran IRNA in English 1857 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Prov., Jan. 6, IRNA—Two top Iraqi mercenaries along with a group of bandits were killed by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in this province. They were employed by the Iraqi Consultate in Karachi, Pakistan, and equipped militarily and financially to carry out terrorist operations in this southern border province.

Announcing the above here today deputy commander of the provincial IRGC Br. Aminian said the Iraqi regime employs counterrevolutionaries, monarchists and vassals of the global arrogance through its Karachi Consulate in order to carry out sabotage activites in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So far 50 bandits among them Azam Hoot [name as received] who had been engaged in such operations for years have expressed repentance and surrendered to the Muslim combatants along with their weaponry and munitions given to them by the Iraqi regime, Aminian said.

He said over 30 bandits and counter-revolutionaries have been killed or wounded by IRGC forces over the past three months. 60 others including six bandits with Iraqi identifications have also been arrested.

Commentary on 'Popular Struggles' in Iraq

NC061210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group: "The Growing Trend of Popular Struggles Against the Dictatorship in Iraq"]

[Excerpts] In its extraordinary session yesterday, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] discussed the mobilization of the Iraqi forces on the war fronts and the escalation of their military operations within Iraqi territory. This session, which was held following operational directives issued by SAIRI military units and in order to prepare the necessary programs for mobilization, manifests the SAIRI officials' efforts that led to the escalation of military operations during the past 2 months. [passage omitted]

The popular struggles within Iraq cannot be assessed separately from the military activity of the fighting forces on the battlefield or from the political-military efforts being exerted outside Iraq. All these efforts have presented the world with a clear picture of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime during recent years, proving that Saddam's hegemonistic ideas have only yielded unrest, conflict, corruption, and destruction in this part of the world.

The expansion of the struggle movement by the Iraqi Muslims and revolutionary forces has created a new set of conditions for Iraq's political-social developments. The mental and psychological pressures inflicted by the Ba'thist regime on Iraqi Muslims and the oppression exercised on the growing [word indistinct] have led to the ever-increasing intensification and entrenchment of the popular struggle movement during recent years. Now, 20 years after the establishment of this regime, the Iraqi people understand more clearly the detestable and despicable nature of Ba'thist rule. [passage omitted]

In addition to its economic, political, and social problems, the Iraqi regime faces the great internal problem of its popular struggles. The regime's efforts to dampen the people's struggles by resorting to police and suppressive measures only display quite openly the Iraqi regime's growing fear of these new developments. Under such conditions, SAIRI can play an important role. While following the political developments in Iraq and the entire region, SAIRI also has the major duty of uniting the various movements and giving them direction and strength. Thus, the first step to be taken during the extraordinary SAIRI session is to prepare a well-calculated program in order to use more effectively the Iraqi Muslim people's combat potential against Saddam's regime and then to take the lead in implementing the program. Another step to be taken is to utilize more actively the potential of the Iraqi refugees in various aspects of the imposed war. Meanwhile, the SAIRI mission also includes the propagation of the epics made by these forces during their past and current operations on the war fronts.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,073

LD061645 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Iranian Air Force planes carried out routine patrolling missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman waters Tuesday to reconnoiter positions of foreign vessels. The planes received a warning from a foreign fleet which they ignored and continued course.

The 3073rd communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above today said Iranian Ground Forces shelled Iraqi fortifications and troop concentrations on the battlefronts over Tuesday and Wednesday, killing and wounding some Ba'thist soldiers. Parts of enemy positions, including several bunkers, an observation post, a machine-gun position, and two vehicles, were also destroyed.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempted to approach Iranian combatants' positions in Yebis region at 20:00 (16:30 GMT) Tuesday, but was forced to flee sustaining some casualties, said the communique.

Movements of Iraqi motorized columns were also checked by Iranian Muslim combatants in Jassan, Badrah, Zurbatiyah, and Qasr-e Shirin "over the past 24 hours," it added.

The communique said movement of Iraqi tanks was brought to a halt by heavy artillery fire of the Muslim forces in Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin, and Chazabeh Tuesday.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed some Iraqi troops in southern fronts Tuesday destroying nine group bunkers, gun-emplacements and a vehicle of theirs, concluded the communique.

IRGC Gunboats Damage Jetties

LD071113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced: The fighters of the IRGC naval forces brought Al-Bakr and Al-Amayah jetties under heavy fire in several stages yesterday. As a result, some of the enemy's installations on the jetties were set on fire.

On the basis of the report, the patrol gunboats of the IRGC naval force, by approaching the Al-Bakr and Al-Amayah jetties, brought the enemy's vessels which had docked at the jetties under fire and inflicted heavy damage on them. The damage was so extensive that the smoke rising from the vessels could be seen hours later.

Pakistan

Spokesman on Cordovez Visit, Afghan Talks

BK071129 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Jan 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative, Mr Diego Cordovez, arrives in Islamabad on the 20th of this month for talks to prepare for the next round of Geneva talks. He will also go to Kabul on a similar mission.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the fourth and the only remaining instrument of the Geneva draft provides for a phased withdrawal of Soviet forces and requires specification of the timetable. These and other essential details are expected to come under discussion with Mr Cordovez.

To a question, he said Pakistan stands by each and every aspect of agreements that have already been reached at the proximity talks in Geneva. He categorically stated that Pakistan has no new issues to raise and would focus on the outstanding aspects of the draft.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said Pakistan is desirous of holding discussions with the Soviet Union on outstanding issues of an Afghan settlement. He regretted that there has not yet been a response from the Soviet side and there was no indication about the expected visit of the Soviet deputy foreign minister.

Sri Lanka

Indian Helicopter Sinks Tamil Boat

BK061258 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 6 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 6 (AFP)—An Indian helicopter gunship sank a Tamil rebel boat Wednesday [6 January] in eastern Sri Lanka with eight guerrillas on board, an Indian source said.

The aerial attack was launched when Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas opened fire at Indian troops on the Kathankudy lagoon coast during a major cordon and search operation, the source said.

The fighting came as Moslem and Tamil elders began talks to defuse tension in the area with Indian troops standing by to prevent an outbreak of communal clashes, officials and residents said.

A group of Tamil citizens escorted by Indian troops Wednesday went to Kathankudy village where clashes last week between the LTTE and Moslem fundamentalists left 25 people dead, residents said.

The Indian source said soldiers came under heavy fire Wednesday at Kathankudy in the eastern Batticaloa District while hunting LTTE fighters believed responsible for torching a neighbouring Moslem village Tuesday.

"The troops launched the operation after information that about 80 LTTE men were in the area," the source said.

The helicopter pilot had seen eight men on board the boat and after the attack there were no signs of survivors, the source said.

Indian troops in the multi-ethnic Eastern Province were on maximum alert for a third day Wednesday to prevent fresh violence in the district, an Indian source here said.

Suspected Tamil guerrillas torched the village of Karbala Tuesday fuelling fears that the violence might lead to clashes between the two communities, officials said. Karbala is only two kilometers (1.25 miles) from the nearest Indian camp, but troops had no information on the attack until the LTTE fighters escaped afterwards, officials in Colombo said.

India's military commander in eastern Sri Lanka, Major General Mahmood Jamil, Saturday sought help from the Moslem community in their campaign against the LTTE.

Officials in New Delhi said Wednesday that the chief of India's paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) would fly to Sri Lanka Thursday to see the situation in the island nation for himself.

CRPF Director-General Satish Dutt Pandey and his chief security adviser M.P. Singh would visit the island's Northern and Eastern Provinces to find out if paramilitary reinforcements were needed, the officials said.

Indian soldiers have set up two camps at Kathankudy but the Indian source said that the troops were "too thinly spread" to be effective against guerrilla attacks by the LTTE.

The latest violence was sparked by the Moslem Jihad's execution last week of an LTTE guerrilla accused of extorting money from Moslem businessmen in Kathankudy.

Moslem and Sinhalese communities in the east will have an impact on a forthcoming referendum that will decide if people there want a merger of their province with the Tamil-dominated north to continue.

Analysts believe that this proposed merger specified in a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence and the combined strength of the two communities has provoked Tamil attacks on Sinhalese and Moslem villages.

India has deployed an estimated 30,000 to 35,000 troops in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces to enforce the peace pact.

More than 340 soldiers and over 1,200 rebels have died in the fighting.

Violence Continues in Kathankudy Area

BK070959 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0934 GMT 7 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 7 (LANKA PUWATH)—The situation in Kathankudy, the coastal town, about 10 kilometres from Batticaloa, 300 kilometres east of Colombo, where the LTTE went on the rampage earlier this week, was reported quiet today.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the quietness followed a major joint cordon and search operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) and the Sri Lankan security force in which fifteen hardcore LTTE terrorists were apprehended and 150 suspects taken in for interrogation. Official sources said that a number of these suspects were released today, after being cleared of involvement in terrorism.

Yesterday eight LTTE cadres were shot dead by an Indian naval gunship after they had fired at security forces from a boat on a lagoon.

The sources said that the LTTE had burnt 15 Muslim homes at Kathankudy on Monday and Tuesday. There is now a strong military presence at Kathankudy in order to prevent any recurrence of violence.

Meanwhile a report from Trincomalee stated that one Indian soldier was killed and six wounded by an LTTE terrorist landmine explosion at Kumburupidi, north of Trincomalee, also in the east, last Tuesday night. One of the wounded was reported to have been blinded by the explosion.

A report from Polonaruwa in Sri Lanka's north Central Province stated that 23 persons suspected of having been engaged in subversive activities were arrested.

At Divulupitiya in the island's Gampaha District, gunmen had allegedly sought Cyril Silva, a Gramodaya Mandalaya [village council] chairman but he had not been there. Instead the gunmen had shot at and wounded a boy, Ranjith and abducted Wimalasena, another teenager. His bullet riddled body was later found in a cemetery in Divulupitiya.

At Padukka last Tuesday armed men robbed a gun from [first name indistinct] de Silva and later shot him dead.